

BALD CACTUS

ISSUE # 28

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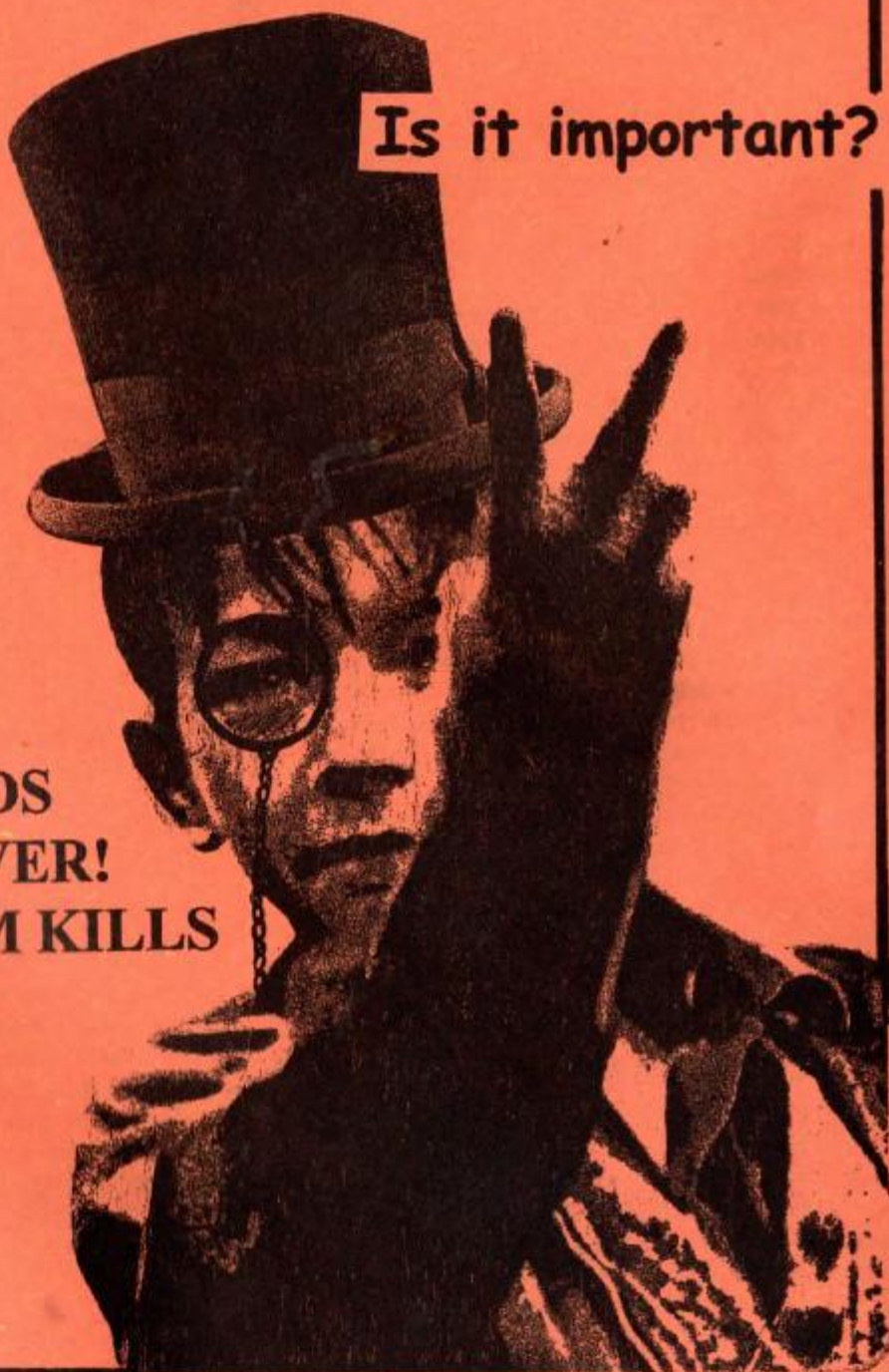
CLASS

Is it important?

Plus:

**SPANNER
AUTONOMADS
NOW OR NEVER!
THIS SYSTEM KILLS**

articles
reviews
etc



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"You've done a good job shaving"

were words said to make me feel more relaxed but they really didn't. If anything they brought me back out of the imaginary world my brain was trying to escape to and reminded me of reality and more precisely the predicament that was me laid on the table, gown thrown up and shaved nads out for all to see!

After three kids me and Debs both finally agreed that it was time to close the Cactus factory for good. No more Rugrats. We're already outnumbered, and knackered and we just can't take any more!! The day of the dreaded vasectomy had arrived. Now I know it's more of a procedure than an actual operation and many men go through it but it was still a big deal to me, and also quite a weird set up to be in. Without trying to sound flippant, women are used to having their bits'n'bobs on show for all within the medical profession to see, having babies and regular smears make that pretty inevitable really. But for me to lie there with my bits out while a doctor and two nurses discuss where I'm going for my holidays is quite surreal. And the line about 'shaving' just reminded me that my chubbies were out and everyone was looking at them! Anyway, the procedure itself wasn't actually that bad. Like I was told beforehand by the many vasectomee veterans that I know (it's an age thing), the worst part was the injection (If only he'd quipped "Just a little prick", he would surely have been the king of comedy!!) into your scrotum where you can actually feel the fluid going in! (both sides, two separate injections I might add!!) Apart from that, all you can feel is the doctor tugging around while you chat about your family, work, etc. And then after 20 mins of tugging, stitching and small talk, the icing on the humiliation cake arrives in the form of this horrible hammock type thing to cradle your soon to be swollen testies in. One of the nurses says "Sorry, they didn't have any red leather so this'll have to do"! The doctor fits it and then sort of flops your dick onto the outside of this medical thong thing. And that's it. They did their best to make me feel relaxed but by fuck, did I breath a sigh of relief when it was all over and I was on the bus home.

And all that is my way of saying "welcome to the world Harry"...the third AND LAST of the Cactus kiddies! Which leads on nicely to.....

the end of BALD CACTUS DISTRO

.....and the reasons why...So, for those who don't know, I've stopped doing Bald Cactus Distribution. (Cue hoards of hysterically crying punk kids seeking counselling in scenes reminiscent of the day Howard told the world that TAKE THAT had split up!) 22 years is a long time, it had to end sometime and basically having Harry made life pretty fucking hectic for a few months. We didn't get time to do much outside work, house and kids. That made me think about whether or

not I wanted to continue with the distro, whether it was worth while anymore. It made me realise that it hadn't been a fun pass time for a while now and less and less people were actually using it. I would say the internet and downloads are a major contributor to that, not just cos of new ways of finding music but also because everyone E-mails now and as such leaflets/lists/etc don't get passed round with the 'snail mail' anymore. I could have moved with the times and attempted to sort out a flash website and really push it, but as anyone who knows me will testify, I'm hardly the most technically proficient of people! So, the combination of lack of time, it being no fun and not enough people using it to justify keeping it limping on are the three main reasons I've decided to hang up the ol' parcel tape and permanent markers....permanently! A genuine big thanks to anyone who used it over the years (and other DIY distros). When it worked well, it served a purpose and I did really enjoy doing it. It was a hard decision to finally end it, but also a huge relief! A couple of people did buy up cheap stock at the end and hopefully this will be the start of 2 new DIY distros! The zine carries on defiantly though as I'm just too stubborn to give it all up. I'd be lost without the moniker 'Bald Cactus', it'd just be weird to not be doing anything with it. Since Harry was born last July ('10) I've more or less taken a hiatus from the scene. I've been to just one gig and as well as dismantling the distro, the zine has been left to one side until life began to stabilise more. I'm quite out of the loop and I bet I've missed loads of great gigs and there'll no doubt be loads of great new bands that I'm totally unaware of. I've got some serious catching up to do...

Ta!

Ben SPANNER, Pig THIS SYSTEM KILLS, Tug NOW OR NEVER!, Iain AUTONOMADS, everyone who responded to the 'class' questionnaire, Aston BOSS TUNEAGE, Bev TNS and everyone else who sends stuff to review, FOOTPRINT for the ever reliable printing, everyone who supported the distro over the years and finally lots of love to Debs, Skye, Matilda and Harry for putting up with my ways!

Inspiration for this issue:

The Class War Kids (even though they didn't do my interview!), Spanner, Autonomads, The Plimptons, Leagues Apart, The Depraved, Dan, Resolution 242, Leatherface, Violent Arrest, Black Market Baby, Left For Dead, Dead Kennedys, Minor Threat, DOA, The Ex, The Great St Louis, Bad Manners, Danger!Man, Section 13, Citizen Fish, Divide & Conquer, Artcore zine, Back2Front zine, Profane Existence zine, John Peel's autobiography...



No Borders
No States
No Gods
No War but the Class War

SPANNER

I HAD NO IDEA SPANNER WERE STILL GOING UNTIL I STUMBLED ACROSS THEIR "INTRUDER ALERT!" CD ON A STALL AT THE 1 IN 12 CLUB. IT'S A FINE BLEND OF CATCHY, ANARCHO PUNK (WITH A TOUCH OF SKA) THAT INSPIRES YOU TO GET OFF YOUR ARSE, DANCE, ACT AND PROTEST! BEING INVOLVED IN THE BRISTOL ANARCHIST COMMUNITY, THEY LIVE WHAT THEY PREACH. THANKS TO BEN FOR THE INTERESTING ANSWERS.

BC: Firstly, why the name change from DISRUPTIVE ELEMENT to SPANNER and how long have you been around in your current incarnation, what have you achieved in that time and what do you hope to achieve in the future?

S: DISRUPTIVE ELEMENT actually finished around 2001 and SPANNER was formed shortly after. We've played a lot of gigs since then, mostly benefits for various causes and campaigns, which was always our intention, mixing politics and pleasure! Most of the gigs we play are DIY organised by punks and activists, and that's the way we like it! We've had three tours in Europe and recorded two CDs. There's another one in the pipeline for later this year which we hope will be released by DIY labels. We hope to tour more in Europe and other parts of the UK.

BC: You seem to have been around for a good few years now but unlike similar bands like the INNER TERRESTRIALS, you don't seem to get around much and as such aren't that widely known. Is there a reason for this? Finances? Other commitments? I mean, until I found your CD on a stall recently I had no idea you were still going.

S: We all have quite a lot of other commitments, from work and family to involvement with anarchist politics and autonomous spaces, so it's mainly an issue of time. We'd like to get out and about more but we're not the sort of band that can gig every weekend. It's a shame that we have to turn down quite a few requests to play, but we do our best to play as many gigs as we can. If you haven't had us play yet, give us a shout and if we can do it we will!

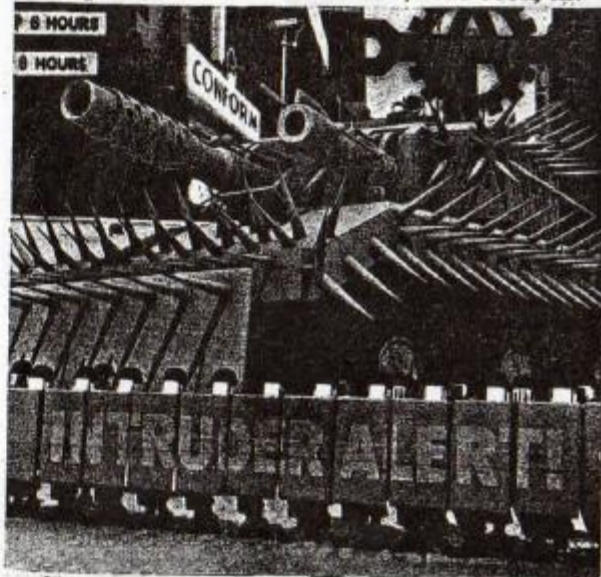
BC: What's the scene like in Bristol these days? You have the 'Kebele' social centre. Tell us a little about that. Does it bring people together or does it tend to lead to cliques and the same old 'leaders' running things? Does it get used much by the non punk/ anarchist community? Does the Kebele work with the local community or pretty much keep itself to itself?

S: The "scene" in Bristol consists of many scenes I think. There's a lot of gigs of various flavours (sometimes gig overload kicks in!) and there's a lot of different and active political groups, many of which are the anti-authoritarian/ anarchist variety. Many of these groups just get on with their thing without much communication or collaboration

with others, but there are attempts to improve this. For example, in the run up to the last election farce, there's was a coalition of groups formed under the banner of Bristol Resistance, which put out thousands of leaflets in areas where the left doesn't normally operate and where the BNP would be targetting. The aim was to put forward an anti-fascist, anti-state position and to speak a little of the futility of voting and the cosy relationship between politicians, bankers and corporate power.

Elsewhere, there's various autonomous spaces, several of which are squatted and developing and maintaining these is the focus for many anarchists and punks at the moment. It seems like there's quite a lot of energy there but we do have the age old problem of too few people trying to do too many things/ wear too many hats and be in several different places at once!

Kebele social centre is a very inspiring project that has been run on anarchist principles by volunteers for 15 years. Part of a network of radical social centres, it's about creating and showing a living example of anarchy in action, without leaders, bosses or profit motive involved. Organised in collectives, that take on specific aspects of work (cafe, bike workshop, sound system, info shop, etc) the aim is to show how much we can do when we organise together collectively. It hosts all sorts of activities, meetings and events and is well used by the activist community of Bristol and to an extent the wider community. There are things that attract people not involved so much with radical politics, like the cafe, bike workshop and community allotment. Kebele is very conscious of not just being an activist ghetto and has put a lot of effort into speaking and listening outside the usual circles; catering for and getting out with stalls to community events, door to door questionnaire and leafleting, offering space to various groups in the local community, providing cheap PA to events and helping with fundraisers etc. Of course it has it's ups and downs as you'd expect and there is much to learn along the way. I could go on, but this is an interview, not a book, eh!



BC: The artwork on 'Intruder Alert!' seems to imply that you support violent resistance against our oppressors. Correct? Some would say this makes us no better than them, or would you say it's a necessary form of resistance that we've been pushed towards by them?

S: This is a big question, the subject of endless debate (and division) in radical circles and again there is so much to say on the matter. If you scratch the surface of history you will see that most real gains for ordinary people and come about through struggle and fighting back in the face of tyranny, repression and everyday violence of the state. It's important to note that in many other places and times the question has not preoccupied, or even arisen for those on the receiving end of violence, brutality and repression perpetuated by governments in so many different ways. Often it is simply a question of self defence and survival that leads people to the necessary and natural response to fight back. Comparing fierce, effective resistance to the violence of those in power is at best naïve and at worst serving the interests of the oppressors. Pacifism tends to be a position of the privileged and based on a shocking degree of historical and political naivety, confusion and reinvention. And why is it that so many pacifists still wear T-shirts bearing the icons of distant revolutionaries (Che, Zapatistas, etc) who were and are prepared to take up arms? For a very thorough and comprehensive argument on this issue, check out "How non-violence protects the state" by Peter Gelderloos, available from Active Distribution.



BC: You sing "Will you stay quiet when they say punk's dead or show we're alive and kicking instead..." But, in the grand scheme of things, how important or relevant is punk rock today?

S: I still believe DIY punk has a lot to contribute to the fight for a better world. It's clearly not enough in itself but as a means of getting radical ideas out to young (and

sometimes older) people, it's important. It continues to be the point of entry for many into anarchist politics and provides a sense of community for many of us. Although sometimes it may seem small / special interest / insignificant when you travel and meet punks from around the world and there's that instant sense of "Yeah, we're on the same page!", that's not to be underestimated. And of course punk has influenced other music and subcultures in ways they don't even know or understand! Cue evil, taking over the world style, laughter.

BC: In 'Box Of Tricks' you sing about the brain washing, mind numbing power of TV, but is there an equal case to be said of the internet. How many people avoid TV yet spend hours trawling the net and believing everything they're told on 'news' sites? Are we just replacing one screen and one source of information for another?

S: At least on the internet it is more decentralised and you can find information and news sites that are not, or much less, in the hands of corporations or the state. And yeah, you can adopt a cynical trust no-one perspective, but I know that I'm much more likely to trust the likes of Schnews or Indymedia than CNN or BBC.

BC: Talking of TV, we've seen images of hurricane Katrina, the Haiti Earthquake, devastating floods, etc, etc, all pointing to the fact that the climate is changing and people are dying as a result. Do you think the way TV covers these events decensitises us and makes them all seem to blur into one disaster, and if we all just give a few quid to the appeal it'll all be OK? Could TV/the media do any more to make these events more real and wake people up to what's happening with their planet or is it too late for that? What will it take to make us change as a human race?

S: Can I have a small question next please? Yes, I think people get "disaster fatigue" and are quite likely to switch to the shopping channel or something else more comfortable when faced with difficult images of how most of the world are forced to live. It's usually a case of a few quid guilt money and then carry on consuming for most people in the privileged world. And we never get to see the more complex and often very social / political causes of people's misery behind the much easier "natural disaster" line. TV is controlled by corporations with a consumerist agenda whose interest is in maintaining the status quo, so they won't ever really talk about the root causes of climate chaos or the real reasons why governments invariably fail to help people in fucked up situations.

What will it take to make us change our destructive attitude and behaviour? I don't know. Probably a massive ecological crisis. Oh, we're already there.





SPANNER

BC: Do you ever get people treating you like celebrities or asking you for autographs because you're in a band? Isn't it weird that no matter how hard we try and how ever much the punk scene discourages this fan/stars adulation culture, just because you can play a guitar or sing, you're treated like you're somehow better than the mere mortal gig goers? If a new young punk asks you politely for an autograph, how do you deal with it?

S: No, thankfully this isn't a problem we experience!

BC: So did you catch 'election fever' like everyone else (so it seems), or did the whole thing just pass you by? Do you take any interest in parliamentary politics, like, do you have a view on who (if we must have someone) should be running the country? Did you vote? What do you say to people who say "If you don't vote, you've no right to complain"? And now to put you on the spot, if someone has to be prime minister, who'd you like to see in that role? (Not necessarily a politician, it can be anyone. After all, this is silly, hyperthetical zine question time!)

S: It seems this time round even some anarchists who should know better were saying "Anything to keep the Tories out!". It needs saying again, however much we've heard it, "whoever you vote for government gets in". It's a total farce and all part of the carefully constructed illusion that we actually have a say in it all. Most people know that they are all as bad as one another and this last election was for most very much a case of voting for the least bad. I still can't understand how people might think that a Tory government might be better than Labour and voting Tory is a pretty shit way to somehow punish Labour for their undeniably bad behaviour in government. It's pretty shocking how so many people seem to have forgotten what it was like under Thatcher and what her party did to working class people. Well, if you think she was bad, wait til you get a load of the new guy in town! Honestly speaking it all bores the fuck out of me, but I do try to keep an eye on parliamentary politics to see what the scumbags are up to. But really, how much more evidence do people need to see that all politicians are indeed greedy, lying shitheads. So, on that note, I'd say Cameron for prime minister, as that way we might actually see some serious unrest and anger erupting on the streets in the near future!...

(The next 7 questions have been plagiarised from The Guardian Weekend magazine):

BC: Which living person do you most admire and why?

S: My 2 year old son, coz he's gorgeous.

BC: Which living person do you most despise and why?

S: David Cameron. He represents the enemy, is shamelessly heading capitalism's attack on hard working, working class people and is a total tool for the rich and powerful. What a wanker!

BC: What has been your most embarrassing moment (individually or as a band)?

S: Can't remember, there's been so many.

BC: If you could have one super power, what would it be?

S: Definitely invisibility – you could get away with so much more and never have to work again!

BC: Who would you invite to your perfect dinner party (dead or alive)?

S: All members of the rebel alliance from Star Wars, the Kebele crew, favourite bands like Kilnaboy, the Usual Suspects and Anarcho Folko, the Spanner boys'n'girls, various rebels, resisters, strikers and pirates through the ages and the entire ruling class and heads of state on a plate for the more carnivorous of the guests. Eat the rich!

BC: If you could go back in time, where would you go?

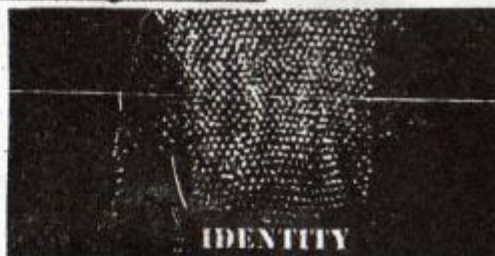
S: Depends if I could come back again and also if I could change things there...If I could do both I'd go to the time when capitalism kicked in and help kick in more machines and set up a worldwide network of free communes instead. If it was just time tourism, I wouldn't mind a bit of a look at ancient Britain, somewhere like Dartmoor, as long as I could take a vegan packed lunch and have the chance to come back pretty quick if things got nasty.

BC: What is the closest any of you have ever come to death?

S: Death by chocolate at the chocolate tasting evening put on by Bristol Animal Rights recently at Kebele. Oh my gosh!

BC: And finally, any last words, plugs, etc. Where next for The Spanner crew?

S: Hope to see you dancing on the ruins of capitalism, or failing that at a gig near you soon. If you could do with a bit of Spanner in your lives, get in touch to book us at thespannercrew@hotmail.com



CLASS

Class. What does it mean? Is it still important in defining who we are? Should we be bypassing it if we want a better world? I have a lot of jumbled up feelings/ opinions about class in my head and I'll try to get them out into some sort of logical order. Firstly, I'm definitely from a working class background; brought up in a council house, dad was a sparky (and occasionally unemployed), mum worked down the local pub. Though when I tell people I lived in Killinghall, which is pretty much a middle class village north of Harrogate (which as anyone who's been there will tell you, belongs in Surrey!), they find it hard to believe I'm working class. There was basically two roads with somewhere between 50 and 80 houses on this particular council estate, which was an embarrassing, ugly spot in the middle of this picture-esque village. So, that's my background. I still consider myself working class and to be honest, I'm not sure how you can change. If some rough arse family like the Gallaghers won the lottery, they wouldn't suddenly cease to be working class, surely? You can't buy class. I would say most people define class by their upbringing and subsequent attitude, while others put it down to the type of job you do/ how much you earn, or even where you now live (I was surprised when I asked a lad at work who says he was brought up on a Leeds council estate, he's been a plumber and now a postie, yet because he lives in a nice semi, he thinks he's middle class) So if Lord Farquar's kids rebelled against their heritage, seriously left it all behind and settled down in some blue collar job for life, would it ever be justified to call them working class? I would say not but some might argue. What about if they have kids; would the kids of this now blue collar worker, ex-heir to a fortune, be working class? It's not that black and white.



We live in a housing co-op at the moment and some would say that's a very middle class thing to do, even though it's in a shite area of Leeds (shite as in noisy and filthy). But, living in a housing co-op means it's dead cheap rent (as low as council rents) which is ideal for poorer people, if only more knew about them. This was a big clincher for me when deciding where to move, plus obviously co-operative living is a sound idea, (no bastard landlord, no stressful mortgage, sorting day to day business out yourselves) even though we do have our fair share of mad hippy types living here who would get the shock of their lives if they had to live in Seacroft or some other white working class area of the city. (Try complaining to your tree pruning neighbour and calling him a murderer there!)

I'm not sure about working class pride. All this 'I'm a working man' posturing. I mean, working til your back breaks, while some rich fuckers at the top get filthy rich off of your sweat just cos all your mates are too is now to be proud of. Work is a necessity, not something I want to do. Give me a life where I don't have to wake up unnaturally to loud alarms, while it's still pitch black outside, five or six mornings a week, just to pay the bills. Going back to the black/white pride bit that I did a few issues ago. I didn't choose to be born into a working class family, I just was. I'm neither proud or ashamed of it. I just am.

John Why did a piece in #7 of his zine about some selfish morons complaining on Facebook about Britain giving money to the victims of the Haiti earthquake. Clearly the people involved *are* bigots, as John rightly points out, but he then goes on to describe what these people are like and says; "*These people are just Sun readers. 90% of the working class are these people, and we let them breed. They should all be sterilised!*" 90%?! Where the fuck do you get your statistics John? Was this a poll taken on a English Defence League march or something?? 90%? How insulting is that?! That's like me saying 90% of middle class people are responsible for the exploitation of workers. (Actually, I know some who would argue that point!). You do get bigots among the working class, but don't you think you get middle class bigots too? What about all the Middle England 'NIMBY's'? Or are they all right cos they have an education and *don't* read The Sun? They'll happily turn a blind eye/ ear to immigration but as soon as the government want to open a 'detention centre' in their neck of the woods, they can't sign that petition fast enough! There's wankers in every section of society. And even the boss class wouldn't want to sterilise *these people*. Who would work their factories/ sweatshops/ call centres/ fight their wars/ etc then?

Class War (the organisation) play a valueable part in the anarchist movement, even if just to bring some light relief after all the drab, Thesaurus reading intellectuals have sent us all to sleep, but Class War as a concept? There are

plenty of people I'd like to see dead (even though I couldn't actually pull the trigger) but what sort of society do we want? If the 'glorious revolution' were to happen, I wouldn't want to be part of it if it meant killing everyone just cos of their position in society. So what do we do with all the 'leader' class? People who naturally want to take control, who would exploit the meeker, quieter members of the new society (The sort of people who are currently CEO's, MP's, coppers, SWP leaders, etc)? You just can't work co-operatively with some people due to their natural compulsion to take over. They just can't help themselves. Believe me, I've met plenty of them at animal rights events in the past, the ones who always have the megaphone on rallies, who love the sound of their own voice and think we should too, and they *do* know best you know! So what do we do? Shoot them all?! Then what sort of society are we? Perhaps we could just compromise and cut out their tongues? (Joke!)



How do you split society on class lines? Is it the classic John Cleese/Ronnie Barker/ Ronnie Corbet sketch set up of upper class, middle class and working class? Or do you think more along the lines of there's the dominant class (or boss class) and then the rest of us, and the 'middle class' are as much victims of this ruling elite as the 'working class' (ie: following the capitalist dream/nightmare and are now stuck in a suburban house, struggling to pay off the mortgage, credit card bills and monthly payments on two flash cars)? And what about those who sit on their arses all day, watching Jeremy Kyle and Trisha who just want to take, take, take and have absolutely fuck all of any worth to offer society or their community? Can they still be considered working class, even though they've never done, and never intend to ever do, a days work (and not necessarily society's paid work) in their lives? Or, as some people I talk to at work think, would they be a class lower than 'working' on the hiararchical class scale? (The underclass)

You can see I'm posing lots of questions here. That's cos I have these thought going around in my head but no clear answer. That, in a way, is why I sent out the 'class' question to a load of people, to try to answer some of the above. But, I'm such a fence sitting, indecisive bastard these days, that I'm still not 100% sure where I stand on

"You can take 'em out of Belfast, give 'em loads of loot, but you'll never take away their working class roots"- RUNNIN' RIOT

how important class actually is. I think it does define who we are and I'll ALWAYS support workers struggles and strikes. Sometimes I'm with Mensi and all 'working class and proud' and others I think shouldn't we be judging a person by their actions, what they do now and not where they come from?

I definitely have more in common with working class people (upbringing, opportunity, down to earth common sense) BUT I'd probably feel happier living in a middle class, suburban, semi-detached area. (Quieter, don't have to worry about the scallies down the road robbing you when your back's turned).

I'm really not doing this issue from a 'Class War-Bash The Rich' angle. I'm genuinely interested in people's opinions on class, whatever their background. I would have put in some pro-middle class band quotes and slogans but I honestly couldn't find any. I am pleased with the variation in answers to my poll, it all makes for an interesting read, everything from silly one line 'joke' answers to red faced rants! And the order the answers appear is the order I received them back, no favouritism at all. It's interesting to read that the only bullishly proud ones are working class. I don't think anyone answered 'middle class and proud. Fuck the poor!'

Funniest quote award has to go to Paul Initonit who summed up which class you are brilliantly with this:

"The fucking snobs ate dinner at night and lunch at dinner time- If you're main meal at night isn't tea you're a rich cunt- simple as!"

Reminds me of Patrick Kielty who said something about his yuppie friends saying "You must come round for supper sometime", to which he replied "What, a bowl of Frosties at 10 O' clock?!"

Anyway, so the folowing few pages are the responses to the following question:



Q: WHAT CLASS DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF AND IS IT IMPORTANT?

Sean Forbes/ 43/ Gipsy Hill
I AM CLASS

Mr.T/ 33/ Newbury

Honestly I don't really consider myself to be any class at all, maybe that's cause I have no class! I don't really like the segregation of people in that way.

Welly/ 41/ Cardiff

Working class and yes very much so.

Danny/ ?/ Ballynahinch

I dislike the common take that there are three classes- working, middle and upper class- for it often dooms anyone, who through no fault of their own is born into one of these 'classes', with all the social stamps and cliches that apparently go with it. Really there are only two classes- the working class and the boss class.

Historically speaking however when society stepped out of feudalism and into the era of 'dark satanic mills' these were two classes that emerged. Howard Zinn suggests that early capitalist masters in the US who wanted to get a grip on increasing unrest among the working classes began the creation of a middle class, that is they offered SOME workers SOME better conditions and titbits from his master's table, and proffered the notion of the American dream. What in fact was created was a better zone between workers and bosses. As long as the boss class, through the media which they controlled, could maintain a semblance of order and 'progress', the newly formed middle class would vote them in time and again, while the working class would begin to aspire to the apparent social vantage point of the middle classes. Ostensibly then both working and middle classes are exploited by varying degrees while the boss class remains the exploiter.

It works well for the boss class who in effect divided the working class with the usual bait. But class is a frame of mind, an attitude. You can be working class and be in a highly paid job and still despise the boss class- income is in some ways an irrelevance and a distraction. The fact remains that workers, people who create and serve our needs, have their labour exploited by the fat cunts behind desks who do nothing in return but reprimand, humiliate, sack and even kill those who are unwilling to do more and more.

Ostensibly labour and left politics rose up against this until it too became subsumed by capitalism while traditional labour organisation like the trade unions became apologists and mediators for their capitalist masters. The class war is a philosophy that seeks an end to the boss class not through the cul-de-sac of parliamentarianism but through regaining control of our own labour and the products and services we create through direct democracy and mutual aid on an economic level, AND on a cultural level.

Organise in the workplace and the community against the bosses. As we say in Belfast, that's class!

Trev HAGL/ 45/ Stanley, City of Bastards

Working class Oi Oi Oi! It SHOULDN'T be important but it generally means you are excluded from many walks of life, ie; the arts/ media/ politics and most well paid jobs. Most working class people couldn't afford to go to university (or wouldn't be accepted). Being working class does have it's upside though- a sense of humour, interesting culture (the opposie of yer boring theoretical/ historical and humourless politico publications), and a sense of values (fastly disappearing thanks to shit like The Sun), and to quote Frank Gallagher, WE KNOW HOW TO PARTTTTYYY

Alan/ 39 (eek!)/ Southampton

I was born and raised in a middle class family and as a result I had access to a good education etc. so I guess I'm middle class too. I think class is a bastard if it's working against you and invisible if it's working for you. It is utterly unimportant to me but I'm well aware I say that from a position of relative privilege.

Rob Marriott/ 37/ Brighton

I guess I'm traditionally working class, being brought up in a working class environment, but I don't like to label myself that as I try not to work if I can help it. It may be important for the working class to stick together with all the shit that's going on but I'm not too proud at the moment of the working class cos we have become pawns for the rich and blinded by consumerism. When people get back on the streets to smash the spectacle of capitalism then I would be happier to be associated with it.

"You've gotta fight for the people, fight for the cause, fight til the death, it's a working class war"- HUDSON FALCONS

Tony Suspect/ 44/ Southampton

Er, no idea, it never crosses my mind and I don't think of what class other people are either. It's not important to me. I was born into a typical, working class, council estate family, but by the time I left home I guess we were more of a middle class family, although my parents political outlook was more radical after years of Thatcherism. I suppose I would probably be thought of as middle class these days, by some.

Cian Hynes/ 32/ Dublin, Ireland

If you'd have asked me ten or fifteen years ago I'd have said working class, but I'm not so sure that term carries much meaning anymore and has been redefined so much that I now find it increasingly difficult to relate to a large element of it. In my own mind it represents clued-in, ordinary people knowing which side they're on, who the real enemy is and solidarity with each other, be it in the workplace, at community level or when it comes to electing representatives. On the other hand it has also been hijacked to Sky sports, tabloid newspapers, taking your kids to McDonalds and package holidays- all of which alienate me. It's a lot more difficult to get the message through to people today regarding the importance of class recognition, where it comes from and the reasons the class system exists in the first place. As a result I think people have been manipulated into defining themselves less by their class and instead place a higher emphasis on what they perceive to be lifestyle advances made against others.

Neil (Issuepunkzine) Duncan/ Old/ Currently Basingstoke/ Hampshire but grew up in London
Lower middle. It's not important to me, but probably still is to a sizeable proportion of the population.

Darren Leake/ 43/ Stoke-On-Trent

Working class and proud, brought up on a council estate, people shouldn't forget their roots.

Jamie Duncan/ 32/ Leeds (but born and brought up on a hill sheep farm near Sennybridge in the Brecon Beacons, South Wales)

Some years ago I tried hard to work this out and found it difficult. On one hand my mother is a teacher and I've been to university, which I reckon are good indicators of being middle class. On the other hand, my father is a

farmer in one of the most god-less rain holes in Wales (Our hill was once voted 4th most desolate places in Britain in Trail magazine. High praise indeed). Nothing I did on that farm felt middle class. Cleaning maggots out of sheep arses, treating foot rot, lambing in torrential rain cleaning up abortions in the torrential rain, carrying feces all winter long to disinterested cattle, and mud Everywhere there was mud. It felt like a working class occupation, but I really wasn't that sure I was that either. Eventually I realised class is something townies get excited about when they are trying to decide where they are going to buy a house and which school they're going to send their idiot children to. They all get on their high horse about the "other" lot, whether it's looking down their noses at the poor and how they're bad influence, or how the rich don't know about the "real" world. It's just mindless tribalism for morons.

And as for me, I'm a joskin.

Now begger off back to your horrible cities and stop dropping litter in the countryside.



Alex/ 35/ Leeds

I don't consider myself to be any class really. Could say I am middle class or working class but I rarely think about it. In this day and age I don't think it's important especially not to "punks". I don't understand why people are concerned with it really as I think the old working class/ middle class divide has narrowed. I would rather judge people as individuals anyway.

Jon Active/ 43/ London

Second, not really cos I often sneak into the First class compartments.

Tom Freefall/ 39/ Neither, I live in a tiny village called Boningale, up the rural Salop punx!

I don't, it's another label that I don't need- like name calling and finger pointing. I feel it's something best left behind in the playground as to me it's a false and largely irrelevant division. Be we in a ptochocracy or plutocracy it will always feel like a kakistocracy. Must dash I think the punk police are at the door!

Jessi/ ?/ Lancaster

I, of course, am classless. Either that or I have no class.

Kelly Halliburton/ 39/ Portland, Oregon, USA

The issue of class has always been kind of a sticky one for me. I've never been completely comfortable identifying myself with any social strata based on any kind of social, cultural or economic lines. I suppose that, based on a truly traditional way of looking at class definition, I come from a pretty solid working class/ (very) lower middle class background. My family has always been truck drivers, mill workers and factory workers, and, although my parents tried to escape that life by getting educations and getting (somewhat) professional jobs, my childhood was still one of trailer homes and food stamps, and I've been working laborer jobs since I was 14 years old (largely attributable, albeit, to my involvement in the financial vortex that is the punk rock scene...)

So, to sum up: I don't find the issue of class very important in my life. I find it hard to identify with any class in general, and have friends and people I care about that come from every social level. I could go on and on about this, so it's pretty hard to reign it in after one paragraph...

Jim Keir/ 42/ York

The hierarchical arrangement of individuals in society, usually defined by material wealth and occupation. To judge someone's position in life by their material wealth and occupation is vulgar and pointless. I consider myself to be classless as I will never allow myself to be part of the system as it is.

Question everything.....everything!

“Middle class, working class, it's all a load of shit.”- CRASS

Hog/ err 22! Yeah...alright..42/ St Annes On Sea (oop North, near Blackpool)

Working. Is it important to me? In all honesty not really, St Annes has a reputation of being a bit posh, well that's what they tell me in Blackpool. My family has lived in the area for over 100 years, long before the middle class lot moved here, mostly cos it's on a quiet coast I guess...I can't say I'm filled with working class pride and have a tear in my eye at the thought of my dad having to work from 14 till 60 when he was made redundant without much hope of another job at that age (and in 1983) & having to bring up two young sons by himself, I feel more sadness than anything else.

Dave Scragg/ ?/ Staffordshire

Class is just an excuse for a blame game, yes board directors are twats and anyone else who comes from a higher class than others but what about the silly fucks who come from a council estate and still become managers, is that really a product of class or the willingness to just get on with the job and excel to make

more money for their families...

What is class other than a dividing line to make people on one side hate the other and use violence, (is that not just racism, prejudice and hate just like nazi politics, hate, kill, destroy) The twats on council estates steal off others who live on the estates, I know, I've been a victim...

So working class pride means fuck all to me, they just have less money than those white collar rip you off. It's a pathetic joke, oooohhhh! Class war, eat the rich, no thanks, I won't eat animals so why the fuck would I eat a human?

More stupid slogans that make no sense. Burn the rich, what, with the intent of killing people eh? Why, or just to add more pollution into the atmosphere.

If you wish for a truly equal society then it would need more co-operation, break down the barriers, spread the wealth, create a rich society not just in the money sense but in a sense where people don't mind talking to each other, drinking tea/coffee/beer side by side...Remember the anti-poll tax demos, here we had people from all walks of life together with a common aim...what happened to class war then? Oh it's OK, they want the same as us so they're cool for today. Just a little understanding and common sense goes a long way.

Not all rich people are hell bent on the destruction of the planet, they wanna make money, true, the society we live in dictates that way of life, even working class people go out to work, if they were so set against it then they should sit at home and screw everything else.

The green politics is a joke. How many fires are lit and tyres thrown on them?...How many cars stolen and set on fire? Never mind BP and their pipes of destruction (Oh Danny boy), it's every class for themselves hell bent on living how they want and screw the kids, screw the planet, me me me...No war but the class war...tell you what, eat my shit...I've not got a job, can't claim dole, hell it must be the rich's fault...Maybe it's government policy and the willingness to let America control the state of the planet and watch us all follow their financial problems round the globe. So it's not class war for me, it's a government downfall and an equal society that I crave, living and working side by side, no matter the class.

Toby/ 28/ Brighton

I guess I would consider myself middle class. I certainly grew up in a working class home with my Dad a London cabbie and my Mum really made our money go far by making a lot of sacrifices to make sure we always had school uniforms and meals. I guess now that I've been to uni (three times!) and worked my way up to a pretty good job I would be shot down for calling myself working class but I definitely come from that background and definitely subscribe to the old adage that only people with no money think you should be proud of that; if you've had to survive with little money you definitely aim to better life for yourself and your family and that doesn't mean going against your ethics. Does class matter? I don't think so really. I think we just ascribe class labels as stereotypes of people- if you're rude, arrogant and treat people like shit, it doesn't matter if you're rich or poor, you're still a nob. (10)

John WHY/ 35/ Currently a small village on the outskirts of the Leeds postal area

I was born from a union between working and middle class stock. I do not (and never have) regard myself as any 'class'. If I'm pushed I say lower middle although by the modern political definition I fit the bill as working class. Class to me has never been an issue. I have never understood why there was such a big deal about it. The 'ruling class' being a handy literary construct. In reality I don't believe class has any bearing on your ability to function or to fight a corrupt system. It's an easy way of putting up a barrier that shouldn't exist. Great example: For years I was told that fox hunting was a passion of the 'ruling classes'. Crap. It's a passion of murdering fuckheads. Class is irrelevant. Making it a class issue annexed a lot of anti-hunting support because it came with the wrong accent. Incidentally, I do think that accents (and locality) do have an effect on people but it doesn't have anything to do with class.

Dick Lucas/ ?/ Wiltshire

I haven't thought what class am I, then? Since a conversation at school aged about 12, where everyone's answers were based on what their parents thought, and no one really knew what it meant except it had something to do with income. I think class distinctions are twisted semi-polite versions of mental slavery that uphold the divisions between rich and poor, and exaggerate the importance of money and possession to sustain a social mindset that equates success with selfishness and greed.... the lazy rich feed the working class scraps of ambition and then slash the jobs as they talk of a 'classless society', as if they were our equals, or as if there were any chance of socio-economic equality in a country run by Old Etonians and millionaire businessmen. So, what class am I? I'm not in one, thanks, class=classify=segregate, so bollocks to it.

Rob/ 41/ Leeds

Working class.

Is it important? I've got a feeling that it will become increasingly more so.

I've really missed the Tories.

Part of me, the part that loved the Larson 'Far Side' sheep, who suddenly looks up and says to the rest of the flock "This is grass...we've been eating grass!" loves the fact that the boys from Eaton and Harrow are back and have once again thrown down the gauntlet of class war.

While the country has been busy buying balsamic vinegar, Applepods and getting our knickers in a twist over turkey twizzlers, others have been getting down to the important business of planning the dismantling of our society. They have inherited a perfect storm of events, and believe that the time to unleash the market into every single aspect of our lives is now.

We shall soon see whether, after all these years of relative stability, yummy mummies and celebrity chefs, we are still able to rise above the bullshit and stand shoulder to shoulder, fleece to fleece, and fight like we know we can.

Baa.



Jo Lewis/ 38/ Leeds

Class: according to my teacher friend I am now middle class as I am now a teacher! However, I feel that I don't comfortably fit into either working class or middle class. I know from experience that I don't feel relaxed in the company of either Aylesham miners club or Leeds 6 social establishments- I feel either posh and naïve, or uncouth and cynical. We are in theory much more socially mobile, but you still won't be able to pronounce your food right whichever 'class' you're eating with. So, it's no man's land for me. Reckon I'll see you there.

Steve (RIPPING THRASH)/ 43/ Swadlincote/ Burton On Trent

I consider myself no class. It's not important to me. Peoples thoughts/ attitude/ what's within are more important. Most folk are arseholes no matter what class they are. To be honest it's not something I think about much. My father was brought up working class, but he got a decent paid job and bought his own house, so did that make us middle class? I have an office job and own my own house, so am I middle class? But I probably earn less than an electrician or other qualified tradesperson. I think the defining of class is a lot more blurred in modern times than it was traditionally. FUCK CLASS and FUCK the politicians who still use it to persue their hidden agendas (left wing and right wing)

**"I swear cos I'm
working class"- HARD
SKIN**

Paul Initonit/ 38/ Peterborough

I come from a working class background- Friday night was chippy night, we played footy with our mates after school and ate tea in the evening. The fucking snobs ate dinner at night and lunch at dinner time- If you're main meal at night isn't tea you're a rich cunt- simple as!


As I went to university and work as a page designer for a local rag, I guess you could class me as middle class. But, I rent, I don't own my own home, I constantly worry about job security, I just get by and I want to stab David Cameron in the fucking face with a rusty nail- so I guess I still feel working class.

Class is more important than ever now that the ConDems have driven their mean, lean cutting machine into number 10- fuelled by Thatcher's cunt juice- to declare war on the poor, the old, the BBC, immigrants and those who rely on the NHS for treatment.

Cameron and his personal felcher Clegg prove that it is now, more than ever, a case of "us" and "them". You have to be a rich, soulless cuntoid to be a politician, you have to be an inbred fuckwad to be a royal and the rest of us can fuck off to the real world.

Of course you get the odd person who is born into privilege who fucks it off and turns into a decent human being despite the odds, but you can count those on one hand- Mummy and Daddy disapprove and campaign vigourously against it while wanking furiously over a picture of Sarah Palin.

The truth is, you have no fucking choice where and to whom you are born- but your odds of getting into number 10 or Bucks Palace are greatly increased if you descend from the correct stock- good inbreeding will get you far. Class shouldn't matter, we shouldn't discriminate against somebody because of who their parents are, but if you use your privileged birth to fuck over people and get your foot in the door at the town hall then you deserve to be plunged head first into a vat of Margaret Thatcher's steaming piss. A "classless society" is a notion proposed by those rich enough not to give a fuck about class, and until MP's, ministers, royals, the church and councillors are stripped of their ability to rip off every fucker else and milk our taxes dry then there will never be equality. We also need workers to be given more powers and rights of the poor will never have a decent life. Do we need a revolution? Of course we fucking do!



"I'm working class and I'm proud, I'm working class and I'm loud"- MENSII

Mitch Elsdon (4MW zine)/ 42/ Mucky Blackpool

Well there's no two ways about it, I'm definitely lower class. I can't deny it! A peasant punk who wasn't born with a silver spoon in my gob, ha ha! In my case it would have been maggot infested.

No seriously I was brought up on a rough Blackpool council estate called Mereside. Spent most of my childhood living there. I could write a book on what I saw there. My local high school was petrol bombed on three occasions, I can remember in first year/form seeing the main school hall swarming with plain clothed cops. The joke was "Watch out a small bomb might be planted under your chair!" Me and my school friend always checked whenever it was the school assembly, but thankfully nothing was found, though I knew the culprits, they were older boys in 3rd and 5th year, one of which was a next door neighbour and the other was an older brother of a friend of mine. He got sent to borstal if I remember rightly. It's almost 30 years ago. Talk about a blast from the past. Amusing all the same! Ironically, the high school, St Georges, has now been turned into one of those trendy academy types and is a lot tamer now. Though 30 years ago we used to affectionally refer to it as a reform school or (now) the Academy of Crime and Social Deviancy.

As you know I no longer live on Mereside (My family moved to Nottingham Sept '81 to May '86, then got fed up and moved back to Blackpool. We witnessed the early 80's riots and miners strike. Sometimes it felt like George Orwell's 1984). I now live in Marton (An industrial estate,


a factory and tyre place back onto my garden), but I've never forgot my roots. You see, I think it's important you remember where you come from. I'm always suspicious of those who block out their less humble past and try and compete with the Joneses, and swank at those school reunions.

Luckily, I came out unscaved (just about!!) unlike some of the people I was brought up with in my childhood who are now either dead, banged up behind bars or sectioned. They weren't so fortunate. Life isn't meant to be easy, but I suppose that's what makes you what you are. As Flux Of Pink Indians once said; 'Strive to survive and cause the least suffering possible'. I always live by that motto. I mean no one's perfect, we all have little faults but just try your best cos no one can diss you for it. I guess that's partly the reason I got into punk and connected with like minded people in the DIY scene, though today I suppose it matters what background you come from as long as you stick together and fight against the powers that be, modern day capitalism, religion, wars, child/ animal abuse and Man Utd (Being a Liverpool FC supporter!) We've just gotta keep fighting and not let the Tory fascist bastards grind us down!!

Mr Cubesville/ Admit to 24 but clearly remember the 1980s

Class: I love George Orwell's critique on class in 'Keep The Aspidistra Flying'. I think the bohemian poet Gordon Comstock was described as Upper Lower Middle Class- too self important to get on with a good days work, but without the financial security to stop worrying about money. The 20th Century was all about the class struggle - the fight between middle class and aristocracy, the emergent post-war voice of working class people and their subsequent bourgeoisification, if that's a proper word. So yeah, class has been important. But the people manning the trenches in the class war have been those at the lower end of British society - bickering in the playgrounds of suburban comprehensives or disapprovingly twitching the net curtains of their semi-detached homes.

I was in a pub in Manchester last night and some people who live in Hulme were bigging it up on their inner city credentials. I did have to point out that for all their tough talking they were Upper Lower Middle Class Bohemians on an extended poverty holiday and they should forget their bullshit art that nobody likes, get themselves proper jobs with prospects and realise their God-given potentials. Oops, maybe that was just the beer talking.



**UPPER
CLASS
HERO**

Marv/ 36/ Born and raised on Teeside, now Boston

It is to me! I consider myself working class. I was born to working class parents in a working class area. I went to University, did a PGCE and now have a professional occupation. That has not changed my political views in any way though and I still consider myself working class with a working class way of looking at the world be it in politics, day to day life or how I spend my time (between football and the pub!!!). I work in a very middle class occupation now however but the values of the middle class are alien to me and, despite my position, I maintain my personal politics when it would be easy to simply become "middle class". Nowadays the concept of social class is so fragmented and no longer clear cut, so having a strong sense of who you are and where you stand is important as the powers that be love it when the masses are divided and easier to rule and subvert.

Ben (Spanner)/?/ Bristol

Working class. Yes it is. Class dictates so much about your life; your choices, options, quality of life, health and future to name a few. It's usually upper or middle class people that argue that class is not important, in my experience. But they are not the ones who are struggling in low paid jobs, unemployment, debt or feeling the current barrage of attacks by politicians and bosses on public services, wages, working conditions and our class as a whole. It's always us who have to "tighten our belts" however much they tell us we're all in it together. Like it or not, there is a class war going on which has been the case for as long as society has been divided between the haves and have nots. The gap between rich and poor in this country has never been more wide and is growing all the time. I think we're gonna see just how important class is over the next few years.



THIS SYSTEM KILLS



THIS SYSTEM KILLS. Scene veterans from South Wales, playing proper punk rock basically. They have a new CD out and have plenty to say, so read on...

BC: SOME OF YOU HAVE BEEN AROUND THE PUNK SCENE FOR A LONG TIME NOW, IN BANDS LIKE CLASSIFIED PROTEST AND RECTIFY. WHAT ON EARTH KEEPS YOU INSPIRED TO KEEP AT IT WHEN SO MANY OF YOUR GENERATION HAVE BECOME JADED, MOVED ON OR GOT A PROPER JOB(!)?

TSK: In the band at the moment it's me and Newt who were in the bands you mentioned. Rob (Newt) has been with TSK for about 3 years, he hadn't played in any other band for 12 years previous to that. Craig has been in the band for the last 10 years and what keeps him going after all the line up changes we've had is the love of being in a band and the passion for the music we play. What keeps us all going is the influence and experiences of being able to have a say through music and some brilliant times travelling and meeting and making friends. Steve Riddle has just joined on drums, he's also been around for years and reformed the 80's band from Cardiff Politrix but is just as eager to keep it going as ever.....oh yeah and by the way we all have proper jobs, as being in a band and touring is expensive!!!

BC: WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO WRITE PROTEST/ POLITICAL SONGS AS OPPOSED TO PERSONAL/ LOVE SONGS? COULD YOU WRITE A LOVE SONG WITHOUT BEING CHEESY?

TSK: I suppose our surroundings inspire what we sing about day to day life and politics obviously come into that. Discovering injustice, entrapment and the lack of rights for people worldwide is something we learnt about through punk which we deem important enough to carry on to sing and protest about as part of our lives.

As for the love song I'm sure we could pull something out of the hat, though probably more along the lines of the Macc Lads than Boyzone!!!!

BC: IN 'GOVERNMENT BUILDING' YOU SING ABOUT CLONING PEOPLE. DO YOU FORSEE A FUTURE WHERE PEOPLE ARE CLONED ON MASS ESPECIALLY TO FIGHT WARS, WORK IN FACTORIES, ETC. WE KNOW THEY'VE FAMOUSLY CLONED SHEEP SO WOULD YOU ACTUALLY BE SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT PEOPLE WERE BEING CLONED NOW? OR IS THIS ALL JUST CRAZY CONSPIRACY THEORISTS TALK?

TSK: That's exactly what the song implies....Do we know what's going on behind closed doors??? I'm sure it's happening whether indoctrination and secrecy could be achieved to use people as a work force or army is another thing, but it's certainly something to think about. As we know conspiracy theories are more and more brought into the lime light these days but history will tell you, we don't know half of what has gone on or is happening now.

BC: 'WIND OF CHANGE' IS A BIT OF A NOSTALGIC LOOK BACK AT HOW YOU GOT INTO PUNK AND OBVIOUSLY STRIKES A CHORD WITH THE OLDER PUNKS. BUT WHAT CAN THE NEWER PUNKS IN THE SCENE TAKE FROM THE SONG? IS IT THEIR DUTY TO LEARN ABOUT THEIR PUNK HERITAGE OR IS IT OLD FOSSIL'S MUSIC THAT SHOULD BE LEFT IN THE PAST, LET'S CONCENTRATE ON PROMOTING/ SUPPORTING NEWER BANDS?

TSK: Certainly youth draw their own line and can think for themselves that's what I find these days. There's plenty out there on the net, in archives for them to tap into if they wanted. In the song we touch on the way it happened for us just an example of how everything was a lot different back then, D.I.Y. punk rock still exists

and only those who believe in this ethic will be part of the ideas that we sing about. Being a musician or in a band these days seems to be more of a career choice than a kick at authority, that's where youth culture today seems to be watered down Radio 1 friendly bullshit.....not forgetting Radio 1 wouldn't play most rock music let alone punk!!!



BC: IN 'THE CALLER', YOU SING ABOUT THE ANTI-SOCIAL ELEMENTS IN SOCIETY WHO'LL ROB THEIR OWN GRANNY FOR DRUG MONEY. HYPERTHETICALLY, IF YOU WERE WALKING PAST YOUR LOCAL ESTATE SMACKHEAD LOWLIFE AND THEIR HOUSE WAS ABLAZE WITH THEM TRAPPED INSIDE, WOULD YOU TRY TO HELP THEM OR GET OUT THE MARCHMALLOWS AND ENJOY THE BONFIRE?! SERIOUSLY, COULD YOU WATCH ANOTHER HUMAN DIE (NO MATTER HOW ABHORRANT THEY WERE)?

TSK: Hyperthetically in the song we say put a bullet in their head, this is just the venom we feel towards the scummy wankers out there who beat and rape pensioners not only for money but for kicks and sadistic pleasure. The scenario about the house on fire surely I would help to get these people out and if they were all safe I'd charge them £50 for doing it!!!!Ha ha ha And surely we understand peoples alcohol and drug problems stem from problems they can't control.....

BC: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PUNKS IN THEIR 40's STILL DRESSING 'PUNKY' AND TEDDY BOYS OF THE SAME AGE DOING LIKEWISE WHEN WE WERE YOUNG? DIDN'T WE LAUGH AT THEM THEN? IF KIDS LAUGHED AT YOU IN THE STREETS, WOULD YOU THINK 'FAIR PLAY' AND LAUGH IT OFF? OR HAVE YOU ALWAYS RESPECTED ANYONE WHO DRESSED HOW THEY WANT, WHATEVER THEIR AGE? IS IT IMPORTANT TO NOT CONFORM FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE?

TSK: I used to love to see the old bikers, teds and hippies back in the day. I also liked the youth cults that were around alongside us (mods, skins and metalheads etc) Where we live there's more young people with punk hairstyles and coloured hair than at most punk gigs these days, and I mean from 9 / 10 years of age. We never get laughed at so much these days as peoples way of thinking is much more liberal opposed to those of 30 years ago. Back then a kick in was always on the cards from older rugby boys and the kids back then obviously are the parents of today, hence their liberal view to their own children so maybe by seeing the punks back then it might just have opened their minds enough to make their kids better people. On the conformity issue, surely we are who we are.....

BC: YOU DEDICATE 'BELLS OF RHYMNEY' TO THE MINERS STRIKE. LIVING IN SOUTH WALES, YOU MUST HAVE SEEN SOME CHANGES SINCE THE MINES WERE CLOSED. HOW OLD WERE YOU DURING THE STRIKE? OLD ENOUGH TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PICKETS? IS THERE STILL A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY IN FORMER PIT AREAS OR DID THE INFLUX OF DRUGS TO THOSE AREAS KILL ANY TRUST/ SOLIDARITY/ COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN THE PEOPLE? WILL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH WALES BE PARTYING THE DAY THATCHER FINALLY DIES?

TSK: Yeah it was 25 years ago Thatcher laid waste to the working communities of the UK involved in coal mining. Obviously nothing lasts forever but whole communities plus our only stance as working class people; the unions, were to be lost forever. I was 18 when the strike began in 1984, the country was already in recession and that was the last straw and the last big industry in the South Wales area was being backed into a corner by the Tories. I wasn't involved in the pickets but on the way to work we used to take drinks and sandwiches to the striking miners at Roseheyworth pit in Abertillery. The last working pit of my home town of Blaina, Beynons Colliery had closed in 1978. The strike of '84 we also collected food and toys for the children to distribute to the striking families. When it was all over there were divisions in many ways right through the communities in the valleys. Many miners forgot the hardship they faced when they received substantial redundancy pay outs, which caused yet another divide between people due to other families who willingly gave in the strike still struggling with a recession and having to survive on the breadline. This is when the obvious doors were opened to the drug culture and distrust that we see more so these days, yet another legacy that the Tories left of an underclass at war with itself. I'm sure we'll drink the valleys dry when that fucking bitch dies!!!!!!

(The next 7 questions have been plagiarised from The Guardian Weekend magazine):

BC: WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE AND WHY?

TSK: I haven't got any admiration for the human race.....we're fuck ups! If you don't put anyone on a pedestal you can't be disappointed!

BC: WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST DESPISE AND WHY?

TSK: Top of this list has got to be Thatcher.....but the list is endless..

BC: WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT (Individually or as a band)?

TSK: I don't get embarrassed very easily but I'll tell you 1 instance where me and Wedge (Rectify drummer) had a savings account for the band in a bank. We both had to sign to get money out because we know we would spend CD and T shirt money easily if it was left with any one person.....Wedge stood at the side of the counter as I talked to the cashier, from the corner of my eye I could see him having a right laugh and I wondered why.....when I finished dealing with the woman I turned to him and he was still laughing like a mad man....I said "what's up with you?"he promptly tugged at my bullring and removed a big dangling snout and flicked it on the floor!!! For the whole 5 minutes conversation with the cashier it had been dangling and she didn't bat an eyelid...I'll never forget that one!!!!



BC: IF YOU COULD HAVE ONE SUPER POWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

TSK: Invisibility.....fly on the wall theory to expose a lot of the bullshit that goes on in the world.. (and don't forget the blatantly obvious things you could get up to)

BC: WHO WOULD YOU INVITE TO YOUR PERFECT DINNER PARTY (Dead or alive)?

TSK: John Peel,
John Lydon,
Johnnie Siculo (Legendary TJ's Owner) for the provision of Bacardi and the cheffy bit!
My mother Pearl to be the full on antagonist!!!!
(anybody who new her would so agree with this!!!!!!)

BC: IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

TSK: Nowhere....The past is done, live for now and try to make the future a little better.

BC: WHAT IS THE CLOSEST ANY OF YOU HAVE EVER COME TO DEATH?

TSK: I nearly got decapitated once.....my mate was

driving a scissor lift through a small door in the old Corgi toy factory in Swansea that we were painting at the time. As I watched him guide the machine we both needed to duck as we went through the doorway, I was busy looking over the rail because he'd clipped and punctured a barrel of oil. The front end of the machine and my mate Chris had passed into the other room, I told him to stop but he couldn't hear me and carried on going. Before I knew it my head was against the rail and the concrete lintel above the door he dragged me through and luckily my head turned to the side. If he had caught my chin I'm sure I would've have lost my head, but I only lost a few of my facial piercing rings....Very Lucky!!!!

BC: THIS ISSUE HAS DEVELOPED A BIT OF A 'CLASS' THEME TO IT. SO WHAT CLASS DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF AND IS IT IMPORTANT?

TSK: I'm obviously working class, Blaneau Gwent alongside Merthyr Tydfil are some of the most deprived areas in Britain. My class has been determined by the geography of my birth. I'm proud to be grounded by my class and will never be ashamed of it.

BC: ANY LAST WORDS, COMMENTS, PLUGS, ETC?

TSK: Thanks very much for the interview.

CD can be purchased from me £6.50 post paid:

Pig

This System Kills

30 Waengron

Cwmcelyn

Blaina

Gwent

You can also find us on Facebook....

Or you can contact me direct:

waynecole748@btinternet.com



NOW OR NEVER!

NOW OR NEVER! Is a Norwich based anarchist magazine similar in style and content to Class War. It's been around for a few years now and since this is the class issue, I thought it'd be good to include them. Cheers Tug for the good answers.

igniting Molotov and Half-brick for the People of Norwich



BC: When did NON! first hit the streets and what inspired it's birth? What are the aims of NON!?

NON!: NON! first hit the streets late April 2002. A few of us had been members of the Norwich Unemployed Action Group, a splinter group of our local Solidarity Federation, and wanted to remain active after these

BC: Since there's lots of Norwich news in the pages of NON!, does this mean you're primarily a local mag for local people? And do you ever get any legal threats/hassle of local councilors, etc that get a mention?

NON!: We started off with the intention of having a primarily local focus but this has been diluted over the years, first by accident and then design. We acquired a national (and international) readership very early on, so we slowly decreased the locally themed content. By the time we had produced the first issue in our current magazine format, the local references were just that.

"THE VIZ OF THE ANARCHIST WORLD"

TV Licences - Student Insurance
Corruption in Prison - The Great

Plus the usual reviews.

groups had folded. After a few non affiliated actions, mostly based around Norwich Council's attempts to outlaw street drinking, we decided we wanted to create an anarchist newspaper. Heavily influenced by Class War, and Green Anarchist to a lesser extent, we wanted to produce a readable publication from a broad anarchist tradition with a deliberately diverse and humorous content. We also wanted a good proportion of the articles to have a practical application. Our aim is to further anarchist ideas, hoping that our undogmatic approach will reach a wider audience than the typical anarchist publication.

We were once threatened with legal action by Norwich Green Party after we advertised a hoax "Alternative Bonfire Night" using their name, logo and contact details. We invited people to come and throw tin cans and other recyclable items at a 20ft effigy of Jeremy Clarkson. Mr Clarkson, in his column in the Sun newspaper, laid into the Norwich Green Party, which caused them much embarrassment and unwelcome attention in local newspaper and TV reports.

BC: How do you organise? Are you a collective? Do you have 'organised' and 'orderly' meetings, dispelling the common myth perpetuated by the media that anarchy is synonymous with chaos?

NON!: I guess we are a collective of sorts. There are a handful of us that have an editorial say in terms of direction, content, etc., with a large number of others that have a varying degree of influence, depending on their level of involvement. We organise in a very ad hoc fashion, generally discussing ideas, etc. over a few beers, before going our separate ways and getting on with things. Trust is important, we allow each other to make decisions and to know when it is appropriate to run things by the others. Whilst we ARE organised (you have to be in order to produce an even semi-regular publication), we shun orderly meetings in favour of fun piss-ups!

BC: Is NON! Open to ALL classes or do you have to be working class to get involved? Are all the NON! writers from working class stock? Is class an important issue within your team?

NON!: Ha ha, yes we are open to all classes, although we've yet to have any members of the gentry involved (although I know we have had aristocratic readers; a friend of Lady Diana's once phoned saying how much he liked the cover of issue 5, depicting the royal family as zombies). The editorial group is mostly working class, and we found Pillsbury in a shed. I'm not sure about all of our regular writers, although I'd guess it is probably about a 50/50 working class/middle class split. Class is an important issue, in that we'd like to see a classless society, otherwise we're more interested in where people are going than where they're from.

BC-: Do you sell NON! On the streets of Norwich (Socialist Worker stylee!) and if so, what's the reaction like?

NON!: Ha ha, yes we have done this, although it was short lived. It was fairly soul destroying with a reaction of indifference from the general public. People don't like to be bothered when they're walking down the street, you have to reach out to people in a more suitable context. Having a stall is always better, you can let people come to you and then discuss the various issues of the day.

BC: Humour is clearly important to NON! Do you think that makes papers/mags like yours and Class War more appealing/ accessible to the working class (Unlike Black Flag and Organise for example) or is that just patronising?

NON!: I think humour makes radical publications more accessible to EVERYONE. I don't think there is anything patronising in making something appealing and readable. It would only be patronising if you were coming from a position where you had no regard for the

WHAT HAVE NORWICH ANARCHISTS BEEN DOING?

working class, believing they are somehow incapable of digesting more serious and intellectually driven pieces.

BC: What's the reason behind the joke covers? Does anyone ever think they're serious and get all irate (Especially the 'Nonce Or Never' and 'Frau Or Never' ones!)?

NON! Pilsbury discovered an old fitness book called *Now or Never*, with a hilarious '80s cover. We liked it so much that we decided to stick it on the back cover of the mag and have the last (or first...) few pages as a spoof fitness mag. We liked the confusion it caused, so we decided to make it a regular feature. *Frau or Never* has caused us a hell of a lot of grief. Before it even was published, the print workers had downed tools, refusing to print it. The management had to go down and persuade them it was in fact a joke. So we were nearly on the wrong side of an industrial dispute! Since then we've had copies snatched off us to be taken away and burned, radical bookshops have also destroyed copies that were sent to them. Funnily enough *Nonce or Never* went by with very little controversy (although another couple of retailers did stop stocking it).



BC: Class anarchism, anarcho syndicalism, green anarchism, etc...Aren't there too many strands of anarchism and isn't the confusion just likely to put people off getting involved? Should we reject all labels and just be a common sense movement for common sense people?

Aren't labels just restrictive anyway (eg: "I'm an anarchist, therefore I can't vote")?

NON! I don't think the various strands of anarchism are a problem in themselves, it's our inability to form a united political alternative that is the problem. I doubt the uninitiated are generally aware that there are so many different factions. To be honest, most folk would probably not even think of anarchism as an ideology, instead accepting the media portrayal of chaos.

BC: Are all politicians/ MP's wankers? Surely some like Tony Benn are OK, aren't they? I know as anarchists, we want the whole parliamentary system eradicated but while it's there, is it OK to vote for down to earth, left wingers like Mr Benn, or is that just a liberal cop-out in your view?

NON! Not necessarily ALL of them. Like most things in life, you won't always find absolutes. I do think there are some politicians that are doing it for the right reasons, but I don't think many maintain their integrity for long, as the system itself is intrinsically corrupting and invites

compromise. Whether you choose to vote for them doesn't really matter, providing you understand that you can influence society to a much greater extent in other ways (protest, industrial action, charity work, etc.). Also, as the students have learned, whatever they say, politicians will usually sell you out sooner or later.

To be fair to Tony Benn, he is a man driven primarily by principle. To be less fair to him, he's a Christian toff, that has always championed a system that represents the interests of a minority over the rest of us. Plus he was responsible for the clampdown on pirate radio in the sixties, and who doesn't like pirates? Especially ones that play music...

BC: Would/ have NON! Worked with The SWP, Anti-Nazi League, etc to fight common enemies? Or do you stay well clear of these organisations? Is 'my enemy's enemy my friend', or again, is it another liberal cop-out?

NON! We don't see anything wrong with working alongside the Socialist Worker Party, or organisations that we don't necessarily see eye to eye with, especially on a short term goal. We'd certainly advise caution, everyone has their own agenda, and the SWP in particular are masters of manipulation when it comes to serving their own ends. Your enemy's enemy is not always going to be your friend. The British National Party would consider Islamic fundamentalists their enemy, and we're friends of neither.

BC: Have you read old anarchist books by Kropotkin, Bakunin, etc? Is it the duty of anarchists to learn about their heritage/ history or is it all irrelevant to modern times and a bit of a waste of time?

NON! We do have a regular anarchist history slot illustrated by puppets! I've personally read a fair few of the classic texts, although *Scumbalina* and *Harry* sensibly favour Derren Brown and Phillip Pullman. It certainly should not be considered a duty to read them, and whilst of course you can learn from these books, banging on about 1936 Spain all the time doesn't exactly encourage the image of us being a movement steeped in relevance.

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"A Punker Version of Class War with Worse Politics"

BC: The public image of anarchists is something along the lines of a group of thugs dressed in black, smashing windows and attacking the police on demonstrations, before going home to their filthy squats, again thanks to our friends in the media. How can we counteract this propaganda and show the theory behind true anarchy?

NON! Ha ha, maybe by stop doing those things! Some anarchists behave like that (and I'm not saying that's necessarily bad), and as long as the media continue to be lazy/biased, that's what they'll focus on. It's not something we can control, and we probably shouldn't even bother trying to. The best way of counteracting bad press is by our own deeds. If you live your life in a way that has a positive impact upon others and you don't attempt to hide your political views, people may take on board some of what you say and start seeing anarchists in a more sympathetic light.

BC: If someone says to you 'anarchy will never work, it's a utopian dream, do something to reform the system for the good of all today instead of wasting time waiting for that glorious day', what do you say to them?

NON! Anarchy may not ever be achievable in this country, it certainly doesn't seem like a viable alternative system at the moment, but that doesn't mean we should stop trying. I do see how people are drawn into reformist politics, it's certainly seems the easier option. However, meaningful political change could be just as difficult to achieve via the parliamentary system. The advantage of the revolutionary route is that with enough enthusiasm, dedication and public support, governments can be toppled very quickly. Also, just because we haven't replaced the system of government in our country, it doesn't mean we haven't had an impact. Anarchists are often at the forefront of social and political movements and use their energy more productively than they ever could by attempting to become some loser councillor or MP.

'THE REST IS PROPAGANDA' by Steve Ignorant with Steve Pottinger

I've literally just finished reading this and have come straight to the computer to start a review, such was the impact it left on me. Don't expect a story of CRASS. As Steve points out, that's already been done. This is basically Steve's life story, from toddlerhood through to the present. The book is in three parts; Before Crass, During Crass and After Crass. It's essentially a book about a working class lad growing up in Essex, how he came to be involved with Dial House and ultimately form CRASS and what's happened since. Steve's writing style really draws you in and he conveys the intense feelings of some situations brilliantly. Like when his Grandad becomes bed ridden and eventually dumped in a home, you can feel the regret and sadness felt about the way he was treated by the family, including Steve. When CRASS are about to fly to New York for a handful of gigs, even though they were still a pretty unknown act then, you really feel Steve's kid like excitement when they're sat in a cafe the morning of the

BC: I believe some of you are into punk, yes? Which came first for you, punk or politics? Is punk still punk without the politics?

NON! Yeah most of us like a bit of punk rock. Scumbalina and I were both snotty punks before we got into politics in a serious way. Pilsbury only likes Junglist Gabba and Harry's musical tastes are unbelievably eclectic and I doubt punk had any significant influence on his political views. Personally I think politics actually takes some of the fun out of punk. In my mind punk at its best is nihilistic and obnoxious, something that doesn't really sit well alongside progressive politics (which may explain our position as the black sheep of the anarchist movement).

BC: Any last words, words of wisdom? How can people contact NON!

NON! Ha ha, we have no wisdom to impart!

We can be contacted on Facebook (just search for Now or Never!), via email (enquiries@nowornever.org.uk), by phone (07528 655941) or by post (PO Box 487, Thorpe Road Mail Centre, Norwich, NR5 8WE). Our website is: www.nowornever.org.uk



flight (And the then Doctor Who, Tom Baker, walks past the window, which just adds to it!). The stories of life on the road with SCHWARTZENEGGAR and STRATFORD MERCENARIES are interesting too, especially when you read about arguments caused by the clash of personalities that ultimately happens on a lot of band tours, one of which resulted in Steve going for Ben with a glass! And some of the squatt stories are quite scary, including one where someone had literally shat in the sink! (They had no toilet and the ones who lived there, used the street...the dirty bastards!), or when they turned up in a freezing squatt to find a live wire hanging down and were told they could either have heating or the PA! (Proof that life on the road isn't all glitz and glamour). Basically, if you want to read some band anecdotes, they're here, but if you also want to find out how Steve became a Punch and Judy puppeteer, a life boat volunteer and some stories of his personal travels, then get this. Admittedly I wanted to read it because it's about the singer of CRASS, but you soon realise it's much more than that and it's a very compelling read. To end with a book reviewers cliché, it is unputdownable! www.southern.com

Music Reviews

REVIEW POLICY

I don't need to list the obvious stuff I won't review here, needless to say if I think your CD has absolutely fuck all to do with punk, DIY ethics, has moronic, offensive lyrics or is destined for major label, commercial success, it'll end up in the bin or given the review it deserves (depending what mood I'm in) (and then end up in the bin!). I am ONE person with ONE person's opinions and views. Don't assume because you're are a DIY punk band that you'll necessarily get a good review. If I don't like your CD, I'll say so. I'm not gonna brown nose the bands/labels just to guarantee endless freebies for review. That's the risk you take and I hope you'll at least respect me for being honest (even if you hate me for not liking your sacred band!). So it doesn't matter what musical style you play, if you're OK with all that, send stuff in and you'll get a zine back in return. Woo-hoo!

3 DAFT MONKEYS- 'The Antiquated & The Arcane' CD

Folk music that's pretty catchy, at least the first two songs are anyway. It gets a bit samey as the CD progresses. It's nice backing music but I wouldn't play it too much. When stories are being told, it's a bit BLYTH POWER like, also if you like The ASTRONAUTS you may like this? 5/10. michael@eccleshall.co.uk

1981- 'Faster And Forward' 7"

When I first saw this I thought it'd be paying homage to UK 80's punk but I was well wrong. It has a very UK 80's what they called 'post punk' feel to it with jangly guitars and melodies in abundance. 'Blind Acceptance' is especially catchy. It sounds like The EX (especially the ANTIDOTE collaboration they did with CHUMBAWAMBA) and fellow Dutch band DE KIFT. So, if you like them, DOG FACED HERMANS or stuff like GANG OF FOUR, check this out. 8/10. Passing Bells, Lantinen Pitkakatu 19 as.18, 20100 Turku, Finland. passingbells@hotmail.com



ANGER WITHOUT REASON- 'Rage' CD/ 'I See The Truth' CD

This has a very nostalgic feel about it, artistically they use that famous photo from the miners strike of a copper on horseback about to twat a photographer with his truncheon, plus other artwork they've used reminds me of old BLYTH POWER albums. Musically this is metal influenced punk, going from a tuneful yet angry punk sound one minute to full on CONCRETE SOX style moshing and squealing guitar the next. Uniquely they have two bass players which gives this a crunchier sound. 'Rage' is an album with songs about state control, religion, etc and 'I See The Truth' is a CD single, as all tracks are on the album it seems a pointless addition, but hey, it came taped to the album so... 6/10 www.myspace.com/angerwithoutreason

ARTHRITIC FOOT SOLDIERS- 'Immature Nobodies' CD

Initially it was just 'OK' but after several more plays this has really grown on me. AFS play very catchy, tuneful punk with plenty of sing-a-long bits. And to be honest, I don't think there's a bad song on here but best ones for me are 'Attitude', 'La La Land' (Which totally reminds me of a track of the last Canadian SUBHUMANS LP), and the ultra catchy 'WDWTFWW' which should be a theme song to a TV drama about belligerent kids who just want to have fun sticking two fingers up to authority... Honestly, when you hear it you'll know what I mean. There's an instrumental which is quite TOY DOLLS sounding and they end with a 'hidden' track; a bluesy number about life on the road as a band... I think? Good stuff. 7/10.

www.turkeyvulturerecords.com

ARTHRITIC FOOT SOLDIERS- 'Trash Vegas' CD

Jesus, it shows how due I am to get a zine out when a band can send me two albums to review! This is very similar to the above. More catchy, tuneful punk... A bit like The BLOOD. Older veterans of the UK82 punk and younger punks alike will like. 7/10.

www.voltagerecords.com

The BAKESYS- 'Return To The Planet Of The Bakesys' CD

Good quality from an OK ska band. Some songs really stand out, like 'Sunnyside Up' and 'Revolution' but overall, good as it is, it's nothing special. I'm sure seeing them live would be a lot better. It's mostly too slow and laid back for me. And 'Liquidator' is a classic ska song but surely to ska fans it's like 'Blitzkrieg Bop' to punks; been done so many times it's like "Oh God, not again!". With so many classic ska songs to cover, it's just a shame the same one keeps getting pulled out. 6/10 www.dothedog.com

BEAT THE RED LIGHT- CD

This lot play high energy, janngly ska like CAPDOWN, complete with a three piece brass section and the occasional bit of metal guitars. As you can imagine, the result can get slightly mental and it took me a few listens to get it but I think it's growing on me finally,

especially the fast ska bits. Think Household Name/PROPAGANDHI and you're in the right area. Seeing them live with their local crowd is probably a fun night out. 6/10. www.tnsrecords.co.uk

BEAUTY SCHOOL DROPOUT- 'Palookaville' CD
Pretty standard, competent pop that was popular in the 90's. I never got it myself. Unless they had something worthwhile to say or played some pretty amazing, powerful type of pop punk, then this sort of nicey nice-ness could have been any old chart guff of the time. 3/10. www.bosstuneage.com

BEVERLY KILLS- 'No Cash Value' CD
These are like a female version of The RAMONES. They've even each taken the moniker 'Kills' as their last name. Pop punk and with song titles like 'Not Your Girl' and 'Need You All The Time' you can probably gather there'll be no fists in the air rage here. Bubblegum-a-go-go is most definitely the order of the day. 5/10. www.beverlykills.co.uk Contact Kate Kills, 1 The Terrace, St Peters Street, Cambridge, CB3 0BE.

BITTER PILLS- CD
Indie, emo, college rock shite. Get off my stereo ASAP! Fuck me...! 1/10 www.bosstuneage.com

ROBB BLAKE- 'Aint Got No Soul' CD
Took a while to get into this but it's caught my attention finally. Nice laid back ska all performed by one man apparently. You wouldn't think it listening to it, just sounds like a full band to me. Yeah, proper ska like it's meant to be played. Robb Blake has one foot in the 60's and one in the late 70's/early 80's and all you rude boys and rude girls out there'd be foolish to miss the resulting sound. 7/10. Do The Dog, 65 Blackdown Way, Thatcham, Berks, RG19 3FY. www.dothedog.com

BOOTSCRAPER- 'Country & Eastern' CD
Apparently these are a house band at the Dry Dock in Leeds, but I've never been there due to fear of it being infested with pretentious students back in the early 90's, so I've never heard of them. It's part swing, part folk, part POGUES-ey. Probably good live (maybe I should get over my fear and get down the Dry Dock?!) but doesn't do much for me on the stereo. 5/10. www.tnsrecords.co.uk



BREAK IT DOWN- 'Three Songs' CD
describing themselves as 'Anglo Hispanic hardcore punk', this lot are ex- OLDER THAN DIRT, PARADE OF ENEMIES and Spanish bands CEREBROS EXPRIMIDOS and BAD TASTE. A bit of chugging guitars, mixed with faster punk parts, shared vocals, etc. Nothing groundbreaking but not bad. I'd say it's more punk than hardcore. It's available as a free download so you've now to lose whatever. 6/10. www.myspace.com/breakitdownhardcore

The BULLET KINGS- 'Long Time Dead' CD
Blimey, that photo of the band looks like 3 doormen at a club! Better give 'em a good review! No, it's seriously not bad actually. Gruffly sung, melodic punk that reminds me of The BLOOD. The vocals draw obvious comparisons with BLITZ. There's some memorable tunes and sing-a-long choruses too, all at a slower punk pace where you can hear every riff, nothing too hectic (You can tell they're not kids!). Shame there's no lyrics, instead there's a fold out sleeve with band pics on. This might be a singles comp as all the 7" tracks appear to be on it? Unless it's just a case of vinyl for those who want and CD for those who don't? 6/10.

www.voltagerecords.com

The BULLET KINGS- 'Long Time Dead' 7"
The title track (and one of the best tracks) off the CD, together with one other, which sounds a little COCK SPARRER-ish. I quite like the packaging here, minimal though it is. All their singles come in a plain black cover but are on coloured vinyl. 6/10.

www.voltagerecords.com

CAPTAIN BLACK NO STARS Versus RASTA4EYES- Split CD

CAPTAIN BLACK NO STARS hook you immediately with their ultra catchy ska, very reminiscent of that hard to beat '79/80's sound. A couple of their songs sound like SPECIALS versions of 60's ska classics. The vocals sounds a little strained and too deep in places but with such a great take on the ska sound we can forgive that. RASTA4EYES have a more brass'n'organ style of ska with catchy choruses and even the hint of a CITIZEN FISH guitar sound on one or two songs. For those yearning for a return to the 2-Tone days, this CD gets you half way there! 7/10. Do The Dog Music, 65 Blackdown Way, Thatcham, Berks, RG19 3FY.

www.dothedog.com

CHEMICAL THREAT- 'They Don't Care' CD
Blimey, this is like taking a trip into Bristol in 1982 or something! Ploddy eighties punk with song titles like 'They Don't Care', 'Job' and 'We Are The Threat'. To be honest I doubt I'd even have liked this 25 years ago! There's just nothing new or original, the drummer's even called 'Animal'! I hate to be so negative about a DIY punk release but I've gotta be honest. 4/10. Ben Adams, 82 Ivy Rd, St Denys, Southampton, Hampshire, SO17 2JD. boadams@sky.com

COJOBA- 'Mas Alla Del Cielo' CD

Steve Ripping Thrash sent us this one to review and I can't remember where they're from I'm afraid (Puerto Rico?). Anyway, it's female fronted tuneful punk with occasional faster and crustier bits thrown into the blender for good measure. The vocals reminds me of JINGO DE LUNCH actually. 5/10. cojoba2@msn.com www.myspace.com/cojobapunk





DANGER!MAN- 'The Blame Game' CD

Featuring members of past Norwegian bands; **LIFE...BUT HOW TO LIVE IT?** And **SO MUCH HATE**, this new offering is pretty darn good. They give us a good combination of fast paced melodic punk, decent lyrics (rhyming *sobriety* with *society*? Genius) and some nice artwork make this a very worthwhile addition to any self respecting punk's collection. In places this reminds me of **THE DAUNTLESS ELITE** (especially the vocals) and a couple of songs do offer hints of **LIFE...BUT HOW TO LIVE IT?** I wouldn't go as far as saying this was "my new favourite band" (promo sheet blurb) but it is definitely a winner. 8/10. www.bosstuneage.com

DEMOB/ CHURCHILL- Split 7"

Cheese-a-go-go seems to be the order of the day with this slab of vinyl. **DEMOB** first, who let's face it, are living off the reputation of **ONE** classic song. Anything else they've done has been mediocre and really 'Once Punk Always Punk' is no exception. ('Once Punk Always Punk', 'If It Aint Punk It Don't Rock'...alright, we get it, you play punk!!!). **CHURCHILL**'s 'One For The Skins' starts with the line "*This one's dedicated...dedicated to the skins, the shavon headed warriors who always fight to win...*". This must surely be some sort of **HARD SKIN** style parody band??! I mean, who calls their band **CHURCHILL** without a tongue in their cheek? And who fights to lose anyway??? You wont be surprised to learn that musically this is 80's punk and Oi! Oi! Respectively. 5/10. www.voltagerecords.com

The DESTRUCTORS- 'Media Studies' CD

Bit of a concept album here with all the songs being about media, TV and celebrity, with titles like 'Celebrity Brats', 'Media Circus' and 'TV Wars'. This is actually by far the best thing I've heard by **The DESTRUCTORS**. Most of their other CDs I've reviewed have been pretty mediocre but this has a good powerful, fresher feel to it, with some memorable tunes and good sing-a-longs, especially tracks like 'NME' and 'Who Gives A Toss (About Jonathan Ross)?'. Think **REFUSE/ALL** mixed with classic 80's punk. Nice booklet, with a take on The Ministry of Truth from '1984' (Simon Cowell as Big Brother!) And the whole media concept has really hit home with me. Nice one. 8/10. www.destructors.co.uk

DIK GURU/ NONE OF YOUR FUCKING BUSINESS- Split CD

DIK GURU does accoustic and he sounds like a Brummie Olga (**TOY DOLLS**). He can be funny and musically relaxing but I think you appreciate him more if you're from the area and/ or have seen him live. **NOYFB** play catchy, tuneful street punk with choruses that stick in your head from the off. But I don't want to sing songs about 'Billy's 10ft Willy' or 'My Mums Tits Are Bigger Than Yours' because I'm not 13!!! A bit like the **MACC LADS**, so if you like them or you're a teenager who still giggles when someone says 'blue tit', you'll probably like this too. 4/10

www.punkerpages.com

DON'T- 'Fade Away' CD

This is rocky, melodic, vaguely punk music, the guitar has a bit of a **CRAMPS** surf feel about it and the singer reminds me of **Beki Bondage**. Doesn't really do a lot for me I'm afraid. 5/10. Jenny Don't, 4546 Ne 33ed Ave, Portland Or, 97211, USA www.thedont.net

EPIC PROBLEM- 'TV War' CD

It's always exciting to hear new material from old members of classic bands. This is the new band of Mackie who used to play bass in **BLITZ** and I'd say the only surprise is after all this time, how **BLITZ** like it actually sounds! Tis proper eighties bassy punk with gruff vocals, which while not quite sounding like the old days, come very close. If you ever heard **Leeds band MUTT**, that's who these mainly remind me of and I used to compare them to **BLITZ/ BAD RELIGION**. It's like 'Second Empire Justice' never happened! 7/10 epicproblem2010@live.co.uk

FAINTEST IDEA- 'Ignorance Is This' CD

This is on the whole fairly standard fast paced punk with a brass section, a bit **DEAD PETS** here and there but these tracks all merge into one I'm afraid. They should concentrate more on their ska side cos songs like 'Too Bad' and 'Bully Boy' are cracking skanky numbers to get you moving. And the last song is a great way to end a CD, great tune and a sing-a-long, mob chorus ("If you're not pissed off then you're not paying attention"). Decent lyrics throughout in fact. The last track and the ska ones would have made a great EP. Overall 7/10. www.tnsrecords.co.uk



GERIATRIC UNIT- 'Audit Of Enemies' CD

Ex members of HERESY and HARD TO SWALLOW play heads down, no nonsense, no bullshit hardcore. This reminds me of U.S. Bands like STRUNG OUT and maybe a little VITAMIN X? A bit to generic for me but this will definitely appeal to fans of this genre. 5/10. www.bosstuneage.com

GRIPPER/ THE DESTRUCTORS- Split CDEP

Fair play to the DESTRUCTORS, they give loads of unknown bands a chance to be heard with all these split CDs they keep bringing out. GRIPPER are from New Zealand and play 80's punk Oi! with a proper gruff Oi! Oi! voice. Maybe in an effort to feel their 'Cockney Oi!' heritage they offer a song called 'How's Ya Farva'....and one called 'Cunty Nose'!? The DESTRUCTORS play their usual brand of 80's punk, typified by a cover of CHRON GEN's 'Reality'. Four songs each of 'proper punk'. 6/10. thestructors@goolemail.com
www.destructors.co.uk

HARD ONS- 'Alfalfa Males Once Summer Is Done Conform Or Die' CD

Are these trying to fuck with our heads or what? You'll get a sweet bubblegum pop song one minute and immediately after it you get a mental thrash number! Hardly the ideal mix of moods on one CD. At least it's more varied than the last CD. I think you need to be in a pretty eclectic, odd mood to put this bugger on. I don't normally like sickly, nice pop but after the faster songs it's a calming relief. I'm too old for this !!! 5/10. www.bosstuneage.com

JIMMY THE SQUIRREL- 'Whatever The Weather' CD

The first track is really good and if the rest of the CD carried on similarly, this would be a cracking, old school ska album. But as it stands, the rest is pretty forgettable, sorry. 5/10 www.dothedog.com

The KIRKZ- 'Agroculture' CD

Great title and artwork but how far does this farm thing go? I can't work out if it's a bit of a joke, like they got the chance to take loads of photos at a farm, or if they really are a load of country bumpkin, farmer boys! I was half expecting pro-hunt, right wing, "townie off moi land" type stuff but the lyrics seem sound enough. Musically it's fast paced punk that after a few plays is only vaguely remembered. I was looking forward to this but it's not what I expected. The best track for me is the silly, drinking mob sing-a-long at the end but you have to listen to 10 minutes of bloody countryside/ farm noises to get to it! Grrr! 6/10. www.tnsrecords.co.uk

LAST UNDER THE SUN- 'Gone' CD

Look past the poor CD cover and you'll discover some damn fine, catchy, full of hooks, punk, with the occasional more thrashy number. It makes me think of ONE BY ONE crossed with say, LEFT FOR DEAD and towards the end it seems to give a nod to DISCHORD/ FUGAZI. My only concern is the sound quality. Is that the sound they wanted? It sounds like a an old tape in that the sound seems to come and go...like it's turned up too loud on a cheap stereo and it's distorting. At first it bothered me more but I'm getting used to it now. 7/10. Iron Man Records, P.O.Box 9121, Birmingham, B13 8AU. www.ironmanrecords.co.uk

LEAGUES APART- 'To Anywhere' CD

This has become a firm favourite at Cactus HQ. I was wary at first, what with some strange song titles ('More Potatoes, Uncle Tusky?', 'Kieran Looks Like Rob Brydon') but I'm well glad I persisted. As soon as the first song kicked in I was bopping round my kitchen. They cite one of their influences as HOT WATER MUSIC but I can't say I've heard much of them to compare. Who they do remind me of a lot though is 1" LP era AGAINST ME! Especially with the extended mob backing vocals and the whole thing just bouncing along with a vibrant energy. You can't help but (at least) constantly nod along like the Churchill dog! With good sing-a-long choruses too, you can't go wrong. And you get a laugh at the end too with a really funny sample to wrap this fine CD up (it tickles me every time). 8/10. www.tnsrecords.co.uk

LEVELLERS- 'A Weapon Called The World' CD

I remember these being big with the student crowd when I first moved to Leeds back in 1991. I didn't really investigate then, but now that I've finally heard this re-issue of their famous LP I can say yeah, I can see why they were popular (especially at festivals). I'm sure you know they're a folk band with a harder edge, singing about relevant issues. Some songs here stand out, like 'World Freak Show' and 'The Ballad Of Robbie Jones' (mainly cos I have a version elsewhere by The GREAT ST LOUIS), some is a bit dull but mostly it's good stuff. This also comes with a DVD of the LP live, which to be honest, I haven't had chance to watch yet. I'm sure if you like the LEVELLERS and want this, you'll get it regardless of the DVD. Just know that it's there. 6/10. michael@eccleshall.co.uk

LOS SALVADORES- 'Stuck Between The Devil And The Deep Blue Sea' CDEP

Gather round, gather round, pull that stool up to the fire and listen to the tale of the Dutch mariner who was lucky enough to survive a shipwreck only to die on the steps of this very pub. That's what the main song is about and LOS SALVADORES are the folk soundtrack to a folk tale, tradition with tradition, sea shanties, diddley-e-de, finger in the ear, etc. Sticking more with traditional folk than with the folk/punk hybrid that their debut promised. They've found their genre and are very good at it. 7/10. www.lossalvadores.co.uk

MIDWAY STILL- 'Note To Self' CD

A bit college rock, a bit poppy, occasionally more metal riffy, reminds me of later HUSKER DU. A couple of catchy songs but mostly too dull. Not one of the worst Boss Tuneage releases but not one I'll be keeping either. 5/10 www.bosstuneage.com

MOUTH SEWN SHUT- '2009' CD

I'm not sure if '2009' is the title or if this is a discography? Anyway, what it definitely is is furious U.S. hardcore punk with gruff vocals venting their fury at the likes of CCTV, religion, patriotism, etc. Think AUS ROTTEN, BEHIND ENEMY LINES and the like. Hyper drumming keeps this rolling along at a breakneck pace. Definitely one to play before going on any political action. 6/10. Rodent Popsicle Records, P.O.Box 1143, Allston, MA 02134, USA. www.mouthsewnshut.com

NEW SET OF BRUISES- CD

This is a new band from someone out of BLOCKO, a band I'm not familiar with but if they're anything like NSOB then I'm not in a hurry to track them down. It's melodic, driving stuff with those vocals that sound constantly strained, almost angst ridden, but I'm not sure why as there's no lyrics so I'm not sure what they're singing about? Instead they've written some pretentious nonsense like "I try to unlisten an urgency to win out" and "In past tense your seven senses come back to you" ??? The songs all merge into one for me too. 3/10.

www.bosstuneage.com



The PLIMPTONS- '00's Nostalgia' CD

This is the 3rd album by this Glasgow band but it's the first I've heard of them and immediately I'm hooked. Totally catchy pop punk but with no aversion to adding lots of diverse elements to their sound. There's a couple of stomping melodic punk classics in 'Drink Y'Self Sober' and 'I Don't Wanna Be Dead' (about living your life and being grateful to be alive: "There's plenty of bad things in this world that we can not control, but there's nothing more boring than a whiney little prick trying to hide behind rock'n'roll. Open your window, get some fresh air and chuck all out your porn, let's see some fucking gratitude for having been born"). There's the sing-a-long folky 'Lonely Old Man', a skanker in 'The Day My Baby Said She Hated Ska', a catchy Northern Soul number in 't's A Crime' and a sort of Xmas musical sound with 'This Is The Story Of My Self-Pity Baby'. For the most part this reminds me of The REZILLOS with a 60's keyboard feel and NEWTOWN GRUNTS style Scottish vocals. I'm not sure if I've done this justice. It's a sing-a-long, feel good CD to put a smile on the face of even the most serious, hardened of punks. 8/10. www.theplimptons.co.uk

theplimptons@gmail.com

POLICE BASTARD- 'It's Good To HATE...' CD + DVD

Four new tracks and one cover here and it's typical POLICE BASTARD...powerful, inspiring, hardcore punk with passionate vocals (incidentally, when did Stu-Pid grow up and become just plain 'Pid'?!). If any changes are noticeable since their original incarnation, then it's probably a bit more metal influenced, with the occasional guitar screech and more DOOM-esque growls of anguish, but apart from that it's good as ever and especially good that 'Pid' is back on vocals. The cover is The MOB's 'I Wish' which, after the gentle intro, gets the BASTARD treatment and it works too.

The DVD has footage of the band live, mainly at Birmingham's Market Tavern, but also from a European outdoor festival and the Kopi squat. It's good quality (especially the outdoor one) and really makes me long to catch them live again as the last time was way back when 120 Rats was open (Late 90's?). 7/10. Iron Man Records, P.O.Box 9121, Birmingham, B13 8AU. www.ironmanrecords.co.uk

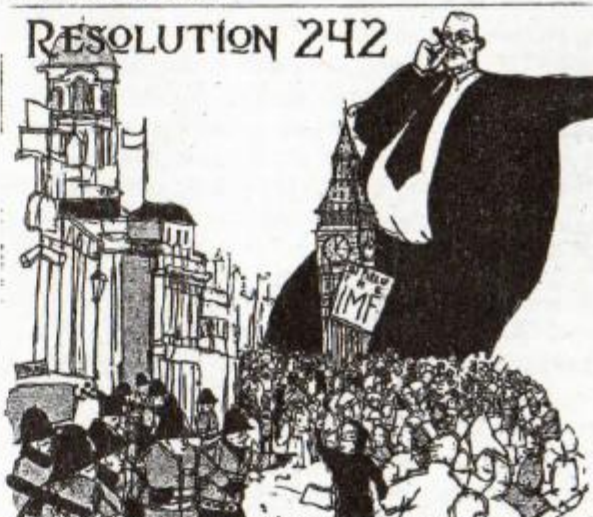
REBELATION- 'The Berlin Session' CD

Wow, there's so many proper 80's style ska bands out there that I'm unaware of. This is one recently introduced to me and it may be easy reviewing but when stand in vocalist Ruby sings they remind me of later SELECTER and BODYSNATCHERS. 'Freedom Is A Must' really reminds me of The UNTOUCHABLES 'What's Gone Wrong?' (Great mid 80's ska/soul band). Nothing too hectic or high tempo, just nice, gentle 2-tone vibes. Good to dance to or relax to. 7/10. Do The Dog Music, 65 Blackdown Way, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG19 3FY. www.dothedog.com

RESOLUTION 242- S/T CD

This was a very nice surprise; dub reggae/ ska and a few acoustic folky numbers, mix in a little scratching on a couple of songs and a clear punk rock attitude with spot on politics and this is the result. With songs about the BNP ('Britain's Nasty Politics'), Palestine ('Gaza Dub') and the I.M.F ("I wanna set fire to the I.M.F.") and plenty of memorable choruses, there's lots to sing loudly along to. Talking of lyrics, until I sat down and read them I thought 2 songs were about cops. One's chorus goes "Fucking Pigs" but it's actually about the media, and in 'Poets Town' I thought they were singing "...in this fucking POL-ICE town"! 8/10.

www.dothedog.com



SENSE OF URGENCY/ STAND OUT RIOT/ A WAR AGAINST SOUND- Split CD

A three way split from TNS which I put off hearing for a long time...something about 3 way splits just doesn't appeal to me. Anyway, when I eventually did play it I was pleased that I did. S.O.U blew away the cobwebs with some fast, skanking punk very reminiscent of AGAINST ALL AUTHORITY. S.O.R are a bit more complex and harder to pin down, but I'm still enjoying what I'm hearing. Again, a big ska feel to it but with added acoustic bits, salsa, hardcore, etc. It seems to

blend well and the lyrics to 'This is Not a Movement' are spot on! A.W.A.S are again a ska punk act, with added influences seeming to come from SNUFF, PROPAGANDHA maybe? All three have sound lyrics and complement each other well. So, for lovers of ska punk, check this (and this label) out. 7/10.

www.tnsrecords.co.uk

SIX FISH- 'Straight Outta Laverstock' CD

This starts off promising with a melodic number complete with harmonica, but then it gets a little bit all over the place. It's part ska, part folk, part punk but comes across as a bit of a forgettable mess really. I think they're having fun doing it and are probably a laugh and good to dance to live. The vocals sound like DEAD AFTER SCHOOL hardcore style, which doesn't go with this. I've held off reviewing this for months in the hope of thinking up an angle to come from but every time I try to listen to it again, it just annoys me. Sorry. 5/10. Pumpkin Records. Contact band:

fonzielives@hotmail.com

SPERMBIRDS- 'A Columbus Feeling' CD

This is the second CD since they got back together and if you liked 'Set An Example' then you'll definitely like this too. Plenty of good tunes to offset Lee's gruff, shouting vocals, together with some neat guitar work and sing-a-long backing vocals give this that trademark SPERMBIRDS sound. Plenty of stand out tracks, including 'Matter Of Fact', 'Meet Me In The Middle' (Reminds me of KICK JONESES which one of SPERMBIRDS was in I believe?) and 'Black In A Rainbow' make this a must for fans of catchy punk that you can scream along to. 8/10. www.bosstuneage.com

STAND OUT RIOT- 'The Gentleman Bandits' CD

Second album of this Household Name inspired band. Lots of stop/start bits, ska, shouty hardcore and a loud brass section. Reminds me of CAPDOWN, FIVE KNUCKLE, etc. They're good at what they do and I'm sure they're great live but it's too bloody hectic to have on in the house. You're just getting into a good sing-a-long bit when they shoot off in a different direction from you! 6/10. TNS Records, 17 Heywood Rd, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 1FB.

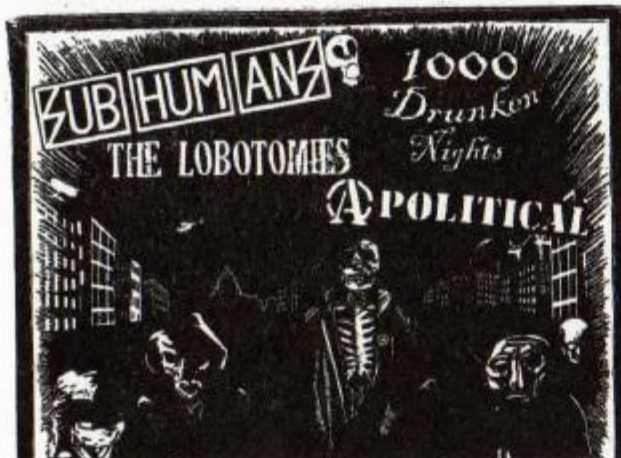
www.tnsrecords.co.uk

THE GREAT St. LOUIS- 'In Your Own Time' CD

Second CD of LEATHERFACE inspired, gruffly sung, melodic punk, but unlike many others of this particular genre, this lot are good enough to hold my attention. As with the last CD, the opening track and closer are two of the best on here, along with the catchy, sing-a-long 'Closest Enemies'. I liked the first CD straight away and then it also grew and grew on me. I like this too, so I think it will too. 7/10. www.bosstuneage.com

T.V.SMITH- 'Sparkles In The Mud' CD

This is a collection of unreleased songs and demos from 1979-1983. I was looking forward to playing it but I have to say I found it really boring. There's no power to hold my attention and some of these tracks are taken off old cassettes and as such the quality is a bit ropey. The ADVERTS were great and some of T.V.'s solo stuff I do like but this is too mellow even for background music. 4/10. www.bosstuneage.com



V/A "09:09 Split Fusion" Double CD

This is a four way split CD recorded live and as a benefit for the WARZONE collective, with one CD being dedicated solely to the mighty SUBHUMANS who respond with a cracking set of loads of classics like 'Joe Public', 'Animal', 'Labels', etc (you know the score by now), and some off 'Internal Riot' (with Dick chuntering as if there was no tomorrow!). Their CD ends with a cover of 'Tube Disasters' and of course 'Religious Wars'. The other CD has the anarcho punk of A-POLITICAL and THE LOBOTOMIES plus some more tuneful stuff from 1000 DRUNKEN NIGHTS. A great quality live CD for a great cause. You really can't go wrong. A bonus for me is the SUBHUMANS side is such good quality that I no longer need to listen to that annoying 'Live In A Dive' CD (Ruined by the American crowd whooping and hollering between and during all the songs!). 8/10. www.warzonecollective.com
warzonecollective@riseup.net

V/A "AVON CALLING 2" CD

Thirty years ago, 'Avon Calling' was released to document the Bristol punk scene, this then, is a follow up...just a little bit later! Like the sub title says, it's 'Forgotten Gems & Unknown Currios'. A lot of this is quite mediocre sort of what they called 'post punk', although if the Bristol scene has always been close to your heart, these tracks will mean more to you, like with any area scene. There are some really good, catchy numbers though, namely; PRIVATE DICKS 'You Got It, SNEAK PREVIEW's 'Mr Magoo' and the DIRECTORS 'Empty Promises'. Worth hearing for those I'd say. 6/10. info@bristolarchiverecords.com
www.bristolarchiverecords.com

V/A "SEA SHEPHERD CONSERVATION SOCIETY BENEFIT 4 WAY SPLIT 7"

As you can gather by the title, this is a benefit for SEA SHEPHERD, who among other acts, ram whaling ships out of the water! So, it's worth your support regardless of who's on it. None of the bands are getting paid and the label will probably make a loss. It's vinyl only (with download) and features 4 melodic hardcore punk bands in the form of THIS BUSINESS IS CLOSED, SAMMY'S FATAL MISTAKE, LEAGUES APART and ROOFTOPS. If you like bands like AVAIL, HOT WATER MUSIC, etc, music with passionate vocals and tunes'n'hooks a plenty and you think it's a worthwhile cause, then this is for you! 7/10.
www.happydaysrecords.bigcartel.com

V/A "THE BOSS TUNEAGE INSTANT SINGLES COLLECTION VOLUME 3" CD

Good idea in theory, ie; 6 singles on one cheap CD, but I like my singles on the 7" vinyl format. That format was just waiting for punk to come along. Also, with 6 singles, there's bound to be something you don't like on it, kind of like buying those bundles of 10 mystery singles from a record shops bargain bin, it's a bit of a gamble. As it is, I love The MAGNIFICENT tracks here, best stuff they've done for me, much more straight ahead punk tunes, even closer to The TONE than the CD was. DOWN AND OUTS tracks are good but they've always struggled to re-capture the sound of their excellent 'Boys From The Blackstuff' CD. The other bands on here (FORMER CELL MATES, TEXTBOOK, BEDFORD FALLS and RESTLESS HABS) do little or nothing for me. Overall then; 5/10. www.bosstuneage.com

V/A "THE BRISTOL PUNK EXPLOSION 1977-1983" CD

What a great idea, someone with extensive knowledge of their local scene putting together what basically, as well as being a cracking comp, is an historical document of early punk. So apart from the obvious bands like DISORDER, CHAOS UK and VICE SQUAD, I'm personally being introduced to loads of bands I've never heard before, from the CORTINAS rather good 'Defiant Pose' through to ONSLAUGHT, with some especially fine late 70's band in between. THE MEDIA's 'New Blood', The X-CERTS 2 tracks and 48 HOURS 'A Soldier' really stand out for me. Other bands include LUNATIC FRINGE, CHAOTIC DISCHORD, COURT MARTIAL and The PIGS. And you also get a big booklet with info and photos of all the bands included. Very impressive and hopefully this will inspire others across the UK to do similar! 7/10 www.bristolarchiverecords.com
info@bristolarchiverecords.com

V/A "THIS IS PETERBOROUGH THRICE" CD

Yes! The mighty Peterborough scene has finally been documented!! Oops, sorry for the sarcasm but it just made me chuckle when I first saw this. This will definitely appeal to those familiar with gigs in Peterborough but for anyone else, it's not really a punk compilation, more anyone doing the gig circuit in the area who sent a track in (lots didn't apparently). Punk wise there is The DESTRUCTORS and DUN2DEF.

The rest is alternative rock, folk, pop, all sorts really, a pretty eclectic comp. If you like variety then this could be for you. 21 tracks, including CHOPOCHOP, WHISKY JAX, THE KING KILL, etc. 5/10. Rowdy Farrago Records. www.destructors666.com

VIOLENT ARREST- 'Minute Manifesto' CD

Some ex- RIPCORN geezers come back older but still ripping it up as you'd probably expect. This is passionate hardcore punk to jump around, and occasionally sing along to ('Desensitised'). 'Victim's Pit' really reminds me of fellow West Country lads, CHAOS UK and for those who love a good regional accent in punk, you can really hear the West Country coming out in the chorus to 'Playing With Matches'. This 27 minutes consists of 10 brand new songs, plus



the U.S. Only double 7" release and a couple of comp tracks. Great stuff. And it comes with nice artwork in the booklet too. 7/10 www.bosstuneage.com
VISIONS OF CHANGE/ THE DEPRAVED- Double CD

I have been eagerly awaiting this for months now, even though I have the vinyl, I just wanted the chance to review a favourite of mine. Even though THE DEPRAVED CD isn't in the correct chronological order, it's in the order I discovered them, so we'll forgive them for that. First I heard of them was on Bluurg's 'Open Mind Surgery' comp LP. Upon hearing their powerful hardcore punk I promptly get hold of their 'Stupidity Maketh The Man' LP, a classic blend of anger, tunes, and urgency, along with the odd silly moment (like a cover of Lulu's 'Shout'). I eventually tracked down their debut 'Come On Down' LP through a 'wants list' I put out and I think I love that even more. 12 amazingly powerful tracks that seem to flow into each other. Just a really catchy album full of fists in the air moments, sing-a-longs, everything you could want from a great punk album and it still sounds fresh over 25 years later. Then came the name change to VISIONS OF CHANGE and the debut LP carried on where 'Stupidity...' left off, a more mature sound, more tuneful, including a hammond organ but it was still clearly the same personel. Their second LP 'My Minds Eye' is thankfully not included here, as even the band think that one was shit. I didn't keep my copy and can't even remember what it sounds like, such was the impression it left! Instead there's the inclusion of a Peel Session, the tracks off 'Open Mind Surgery' and some unreleased demos. Both CDs have 51 tracks in total and it comes with a big lyric booklet complete with notes by Ian Glasper (I think this is from his 'Trapped In A Scene' book but I still enjoyed reading it again). Excellent bands. Excellent package. 10/10. Boss Tuneage, P.O.Box 74, Sandy, Beds, SG19 2WB.

www.bosstuneage.com

ZEEB- 'Zeeb?' CD

Like advancing Zulu warriors, this lot keep getting shot down by the Michael Caines of review land but still they keep coming back, undeterred by the massacre left in their wake! At least this is less of a messed up nightmare than the last CD. It's mostly rocky, metal stuff (almost proggy in places) with some keyboards thrown in to give it a slight new romantic edge with the occasional weird bit so you don't forget who you're listening to! I mean, there's no harm done and they're clearly enjoying themselves but have the decency to do it in private! Rock and new romantic are two musical genres I'd like to forget so for that reason, this is coming off and never going on again! 4/10.

andrew@cornog.co.uk

BAC

The Zine Scene

shows Here's

XISTENCE

AGAINST & BEYOND #1

A new zine from Bristol and very good it is too, especially for a debut. Loads to read; band wise there's interviews with SPANNER, HELLO BASTARDS, WARPRAYER, COP ON FIRE, etc. Then there's lots politically to digest too, including a good article on the English Defence League, not just using the easy "they're all fascists" line, this article is more analytical and thought out, which makes it a very refreshing article for an anarcho punk zine. Other articles, including bits on direct action, borders and tons more, including appropriate graphics all designed to stir up a bit of punk rock agitation. A big, inspiring read! Against & Beyond, 14 Robertson Rd, Easton, Bristol, BS5 6JY. againstandbeyond@riseup.net

ARTCORE #27 with "FUCK ROCK" comp LP

I did start this review with an account of my manic search for this, one which lead to me bagging what was probably the last copy available for sale in the country! But the details (and the gloating!) would have probably bored you. So, anyway, the zine is a proper good read, as review cliches go, it's 'unputdownable'! Featuring loads of great bands old and new, like my current faves The CLASS WAR KIDS (everyone needs to hear 'Reflection, Rebellion, Rage'), DOA, THIS SYSTEM KILLS, The SAINTS, DICKIES, POISON IDEA, the art of Squeal (The guy responsible for the classic Icons Of Filth stuff.), and lots more. As well as thoughts on 25 years of Artcore from scenesters, plenty of reviews and the usual Daily Terrorgraph, you have a great read. The LP is music from the ABC No Rio scene that should have been released in 1991 but was shelved. CITIZENS ARREST, GO!, WARNING, BORN AGAINST, etc. It's OK but it's the zine I was desperately tracking down as it was one of the first I ever read (#4) and I've not missed one since. Welly, 1 Aberdulais Rd, Gabalfa, Cardiff, CF14 2PH. artcore@ntlworld.com

STEVEIGNORANT

FEATURED ARTIST JASON BARNET

2 DOLLARS (48YH)

BACK2FRONT #5

One of the zines I really get excited about when I hear there's a new issue out because there's always loads to read that's of interest to me, and this one is no exception. There's interesting interviews with Stuart Christie, MORAL DILEMMA, BEHIND ENEMY LINES, DANBERT NOBACON, Penny Rimbaud, RDF, Deek (about Scottish punk). Plus there's articles on the CNT, Anarchist Federation, reviews and opinions, etc. It's getting like the anarcho 'Artcore' with the mix of old and new bands featured and that's just fine with this stuck in the eighties old timer! A very inspiring read! Danny, Box F, 67 Tannaghmore Rd, Ballynahinch, BT24 8NU. back2front@riseup.net

BARBIES DEAD #30

Alex is passionate about the UK SUBS, cycling and non league footy, and you can always read about them all in here, as well as bits about Plymouth Punks Picnic, first gig memories and a look back at reviews of his zine from the rest of us, and some very basic reviews. 50P + post: Alex, Woodhouse, The Square, Gunnislake, Cornwall, PL18 9BW. treefrogalex@yahoo.co.uk

BEAT MOTEL #10

THE SHITTY LIMITS

This one is always chock full of stuff to read, not all of it appeals to my tastes but with so much there's bound to be something to interest you. As usual there's interviews with lots of bands I've never even heard of, such as The THERMALS, THESE ARMS ARE SNAKES and BASTILA. Plus there's a tour diary from the band with the worst name ever; MUM LOCKED IN CASTLE, loads of columns, reviews, lives, local news (for local people), facts on her page, just because it was a double yolk!...Get a fucking life!!!. £2 to: Andrew Culture, P.O.Box 773, Ipswich, IP1 9FT. www.beatmotel.co.uk

EVERLONG #12

The perfect accompaniment to the retro Bristol comp CDs reviewed elsewhere, as some of the bands are interviewed in Everlong. New interviews with oldies The CORTINAS, PIGS, X-CERTS and SOCIAL SECURITY, plus a good one with The CUT UPS (Never heard of 'em, this made me want to investigate further). Finish this off with some reviews and it was a very enjoyable read. £1: Shane Baldwin, 1 Shilton Close, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 9UZ.

GADGIE #25

Fucking hell, I sound like old man Trev HAGL here but what the hell were you thinking with that font size Marv?! I really can't read it. I can sift through small sittings of a few lines but it's just too much hard work and wrinkle inducing squinting for me, so I can't really review it. Shame cos I always enjoy Marv's no bullshit reviews and tales from his youth. If you're young and your eyes are still fresh, I'm sure this is as good as past issues, so get in touch now. Marv, P.O.Box 93, Boston, Lincs, PE21 7JW. mrgadgie@hotmail.com

LIGHTS GO OUT #7

I know that there's been other issues since this one but this is the latest I have and it deserves a plug as it's a good fun, enthusiastic, relatively new zine, reminds me a little of BEAT MOTEL occasionally. This one interviews ICH, The ARTERIES, NO USE FOR A NAME and someone from BIS, to name a few. Plus there's columns, a bit about guilty pleasures, gig reviews, columns and more. You can tell they feature what/who they want and don't try to sell the zine with big names. Nice one. £1 + post: www.lightsgoout.co.uk

MILD PERIL #16

This was a great issue that I seriously couldn't put down. There was so much of interest to me in here that I practically read it from cover to cover in one sitting. There's good interviews with STRIKE ANYWHERE and DILLINGER 4, where Tom and Paddy (respectively) come across as really nice, friendly people. There's also a good one with Aston BOSS TUNEAGE, an OK one with PROPAGANDHI, plus MUNICIPAL WASTE, conservationists SEA SHEPHERD and a few more. Top these off with a tour report, individuals interviewed in the 'Punk Rock Pin Up' section, top 10's of 2009, some rather odd 'erotic' art and lots more. A quid well spent I'd say! Pete, 25 Swansea Rd, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 3HU. peteoffence@hotmail.com

Manda Rin (Bis)

ICH.

Columns

NEGATIVE REACTION #15/NO ONE RULES OK #3

Good split zine with plenty to read. Trev rants about modern internet usage such as social networking, surprisingly sticks up for students (!) and interviews VICIOUS RUMOURS, NOISE and KING OF THE DELMAR. Justin echoes my sentiments exactly about work and has conducted a good interview with Henry Cluney of SLF fame (and he lets you know what he thinks about Jake Burns flogging that dead horse!). Also has short but interesting interviews with RESTARTS and GOVERNMENT ISSUE. I want to see more stuff like in his last issue where, next to a picture of Mensi was the caption 'A podgy Upstart'! £2.00 to Trev, 20 New Front St, Tanfield Lea, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 9LY. trevhagl@hotmail.com

ONE WAY TICKET TO CUBESVILLE #9

If every eighties band under the sun can make a comeback, why not a zine? Cubesville still has a unique sense of humour which really shines in his zine. This time The WANKYS, AUTONOMADS, SHITTY LIMITS and DOOM are interviewed, plus there's the return of the cut out action band figures (This time ACTIVE MINDS), bits about CRASS, OZ magazine, recipes, etc. A fun read that you really should check out. 50P + postage: Richard Cubesville, P.O.Box 4388, Manchester, M61 0FL. cubesville@hotmail.com ZINE & ISSUE #27

ONT ROAD #15

This is becoming very regular and judging by the amount of travelling Luke actually does, it needs to be! Luke is definitely living the life right now, travelling to festivals in Europe, going to the USA, Mallorca and Romania (where I've had the pleasure of going back in '93, so that was particularly interesting to me). And there's what I believe is the first write up on the amazing 'Darts To An End' tournament at the 1in12 club. (Every Jan/Feb. Get yourself along next year, to play or cheer, it's all good). In these pages Luke captures the experience of what is essentially punk scallies travelling to new places, getting drunk and having fun. You might get jealous reading it or it might make you get out there and do it yourself. £1 + post: 14 Hesse Mount, Leeds, LS6 1EP. skalska@yahoo.com

40 HELLS

PLOPPY PANTS #11

Roddy's zine is always a good read, even though most of the bands he features don't really interest me. He likes his metal, crust and D...sorry, G-Beat, and it all gets plenty of coverage within these shit splattered pages! Articles on why Roddy is vegan, why punks should care about language (ie: Why we should fight to keep indigenous languages alive), pooing (of course!) all break up the music nicely. Plenty of honest reviews plus is the drummer of MOTORHEAD or the WANKYS the king of G-Beat? Buy this to find out kids. R Neithercut, Sabhal Mor Ostrig, The Isle Of Skye, IV44 8RQ, Alba/Scotland. dirty_little_punk@hotmail.com

PROFANE EXISTENCE #61/62

Welcome return of this essential zine. This double issue is absolutely crammed full of interesting stuff to read. Most of the columns are totally inspiring for starters. Then there's an interview with Steve Ignorant, an interesting one with DEVIATED INSTINCT, also NAPALM DEATH, INSTINCT OF SURVIVAL, MICROCOSM PUBLISHING and NIGHT GAUNT GRAPHICS. Another inspiring piece is about activists being harrassed by the state and how they refused to co-operate, staying defiant to the last. As it says on the cover; "A magazine for people who still give a shit". Couldn't have put it better myself. For anyone going through a bit of an apathetic phase, reading this will kick start you back into life! P.O.Box 196, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA. zine@profaneexistence.org

RAZORCAKE #62

This is the first time I've read this and I'm glad I've finally discovered it. There's lots to read and comes in the standard larger U.S. Zine format of interviews, columns and reviews. The interviews are all with people I've never heard of but they're done in a way that draws you in, particularly the one with TOO MANY DAVES which kept making me chuckle. There's a massive one with MEAN JEANS and others with MOUNTZA (Greek zine) and Robert Scott (New Zealand's THE BATS and THE CLEAN). The columns are varied and as such I enjoyed some (one about re-thinking attitudes toward sexism in the scene) and some I skipped (one about Star Wars toys for strips, loads of reviews and a great DIY attitude and it all makes for a grand read. P.O.Box 42129, LA, CA 90042, USA. www.razorcake.org

RIPPING THRASH #27

Main features of this issue are good, interesting interviews with Steve Hyland and ACTIVE MINDS. Also there's SEE YOU IN HELL, lots of reviews, photos, etc, all laid out in a flash manner but still keeping that old school fanzine feel about it. Steve, P.O.Box 152, Burton-On-Trent, Staffs, DE14 1XX. steve@rippingthrash.com

SUSPECT DEVICE #51

Tony and Gaz are still soldiering on after all these years. Is this possibly the longest running UK zine? Anyway, this one features THE SHITTY LIMITS, ANTI YOU, BOSS TUNEAGE and SOCIAL CIRCKLE, as well as the regular columns, reviews and band photos. You know what you're getting with SD and it's comforting to know! 9 Lexby Rd, Totton, Southampton, SO40 9HB. suspectdevicehq@hotmail.com

UBER #2

a punk rock rampage
This is an odd one, not really a punk zine...I'm not sure how to describe it to be honest. A bit arty with pics of people and a list of their likes and dislikes, a Scooby Doo mystery...er, the bit that stands out is ZILFs (Zombies I'd Like to Fuck)...odd to say the least. Some local adverts and er...uber@purplerevolver.com
early 2011 1 pound

WHY #7

I thought we'd heard the last from John when up he pops with this new improved issue of his zine. It is a very good, thoughtful read too, that inspired me to get cracking with some zine stuff of my own. There's interviews with SUBHUMANS and the OPPRESSED, some art from Jonathan Baker that seemed really pointless to me ('I don't know about art but...'), and lots of writing from John, everything from a good piece about radio stations (inspired by a visit from someone polling him on said subject), to weird dream shit. The best bits though, are the gig reviews (Rollins in Leeds and an anti fascist gig in London) where the main part of the 'review' is about the journey and the people he met along the way. Throw in some reviews, recipes and other odds'n'ends and it's 'welcome back John'. Pickfords House, 4 James St, York, YO10 3WW. john@anarchopunk.org.uk

HEY - IS HE USING HIS BAND TO "SELL" REVOLUTION--



-OR USING "REVOLUTION" TO SELL HIS BAND ?!

active minds & punch and judy

it's like a quaint alternative to the internet.



Capitalism Is Working



And Working



And Working...

AUTONOMADS

Good old anarcho, ska punk from Manchester, in the same camp as Inner Terrestrials and Citizen Fish, but also bringing to mind AK47s and Scum Of Toytown. If ska punk is your bag then you can't ask for more than that eh? Questions answered by Iain.

Q1: Who are AUTONOMADS? How long have you been together? Have any of you been in any other bands that we should know about? What do you want to achieve with this band?

A1: The Autonomads are Iain guitar and vocals, Beanie sax, vocals and melodica, Robbie guitar and vocals, Elliot Bass and Paul Drums and vocals. We formed in late 2007 and have released one album so far called 'No Mans Land'. We have all played in other bands such as War Coma, Allegiance Free, Kamikaze Sperm and Black Star Dub Collective.

Q2: When writing lyrics, what goes through your head that makes you write political/protest songs as opposed to say personal/love songs?

A2: I guess that we see our songs as personal even though many of them deal with 'political' issues. We feel it is important to discuss what we face and feel and have always found it interesting and inspiring to hear bands dealing with social issues in songs.

Q3: In 'Supermarket Sweep' you encourage shoplifting. What do you say to those who say that shoplifting puts up prices for the rest of us? Do you think it's acceptable to target all shops or just the big ones? And now there are cameras everywhere, can you offer any tips for any novices out there keen to get their fingers sticky?

A3: I guess that when we wrote this song we were more 'militant' in our view that you should only steal from big time capitalists, but now a few years on we have come round to the idea that it is not always necessary to distinguish between 'good' and 'bad' capitalists. Obviously we don't advocate robbing grannies or grass roots stores but some of these healthy living shops that sell pricey tofu are just as bad as Tesco and Mr Saninsbury at capitalising on a niche in the market.

Shoplifters of the world unite you have everything to gain and your change.

Q4: Do you ever get people coming up to you after gigs telling you that one of your songs really made them think about an issue or changed them in some way? (Or frankly telling you that what you said in so and so song is just wrong. Would you get into a debate or just tell them to fuck off!?)

A4: People do sometimes ask about what we say be it in a positive or negative way. Its always good to debate these issues or you become self righteous and dogmatic and talking about this can broaden your views.

Q5: Hypothetical question time now; If you were walking your dog past Nick Griffin's house and you saw that it was on fire, Griffin was trapped inside, choking and begging for his pitiful life from an upstairs window and there was no one else around, you were the only one able to save him, do you save the pop eyed freak or get the marshmallows out and enjoy the bonfire?! (In all seriousness though, could you actually let another human die, no matter how abhorrent they were?)

AUTONOMADS • NO MANS LAND

THE FOUNDATIONS MOTHER EARTH

A5: I guess letting one facsit die isn't going to change the issues that perpetuate facist ideas. But we would probably drag him out take him to the woods tie him to a tree give him some acid and let him reflect on his pitiful existence.

Q6: And another one; If you had the chance to destroy any one building in the world and get away with it, what would it be and why?

A6: (left blank)

Q7: And on the subject of buildings, I believe some/all of you are squatters? Is this through necessity or is it a political point you're trying to make to Manchester council? Do you try to meet with the people in the community to prove that squatters don't all use heroin and shit in their neighbours gardens?!

A7: Yeah, there are loads of empty homes, yet there are huge waiting lists for social housing, high rents for private accommodation - which makes you dependent on work etc.. (We aint work shy - that's another rant!) Why wait for the council? It's a direct action solution to securing a roof over your head. The squat around the corner from us held community action days; the local kids helped make banners and sorted the garden out. The community were really glad to see an empty house being used. It is political yeah - Our system is such that, people can afford to leave houses to rot... We are making use of the excess and challenging the idea that you have to buy everything. If you've got two houses... You've got one to many! Loads of info on legal, practical side of squatting from ASS (Squatters Advisory Service) and check out <http://www.squashcampaign.org/> for those interested.

Q8: Was it an easy decision to get a Murdoch owned Myspace page? I know it's free but it's still promoting Murdoch and making him seem 'cool' with the kids ("look at all these 'right on' bands who have a page"). To be honest I can't get my head round how many sound/anarchist bands have a page. Can you explain to me your feelings on the issue?

A8: Well this is a hot topic....We got rid of our myspace and launched a website but since that we got a Facebook page. Yes I know controversial but everyone uses it so it becomes a fairly time consuming task linking up different forms of communication in to a logical order. It was lazy but I guess it is effective method of connecting with people all be it a negative one.

Q9: Most bands put 'bonus tracks' on the CD but you put one on the vinyl. Any reason for this? And whose idea was it to package the CD in that way? Was it for ecological reasons, or perhaps to be totally in control of your product (DIY)?

A9: The bonus track appeared on the album because we released it at a later date and we didn't record that tune first time around. As for the CD packaging, for me it was more about having control over our product. So many CDs come in plastic cases so we wanted to do something different. It happens to be more ecological and I think it looks and feels better than plastic. Each one of these cases is hand sewn, they are all different and they will all perish in the hands of time...! We are not into the green washing, 'buy our super-eco-pack CD and change the world' and while you are at it, switch to energy saving light bulbs and start eating organic hummous!'. It just felt right!

Q10: The album cover is clearly inspired by CRASS and you cover a RUDIMENTARY PENI song. Who else (musically, politically, whatever) inspires you to keep on keeping on?

Diy bands, folk musicians, bands who really bring politics into punk like Crass, Propagandhi, and heavy duty dubs.

(The next 7 questions have been plagiarised from The Guardian Weekend magazine):

Q11: Which living person do you most admire and why?

I guess people who inspire us are those in bands who carry on with the DIY spirit despite being on the road for years and keep constantly up to date with political issues and those on the anti-capitalist and animal rights frontline.

BASTA YA!

Q12: Which living person do you most despise and why?

Each and every person who helps this compassionless profit based system live to destroy lives another day.

Q13: What has been your most embarrassing moment (individually or as a band)?



When somebody at a bar in Germany mistook us for the Pigeon Detectives.

Q14: If you could have one super power, what would it be?

Bernard's watch..

Q15: Who would you invite to your perfect dinner party (dead or alive)?

Giant Haystacks

Q16: If you could go back in time, where would you go?

The bronze age.

Q17: What is the closest any of you have ever come to death?

Rebellion Festival...

Q18: This issue has developed a bit of a 'class' theme. So, what class do you consider yourself and is it important?

Class romantisation is a difficult issue as its positive to feel an allegiance with those who struggle in the same ways as you but it is also a divide imposed upon us by capitalism it is not positive to see yourself as different to others based on petty differences such your economic background in the same way as race or sexuality. But I guess you define your own future and we are all prols under a Marxist classification.

Q19: Any last words, comments, plugs, etc

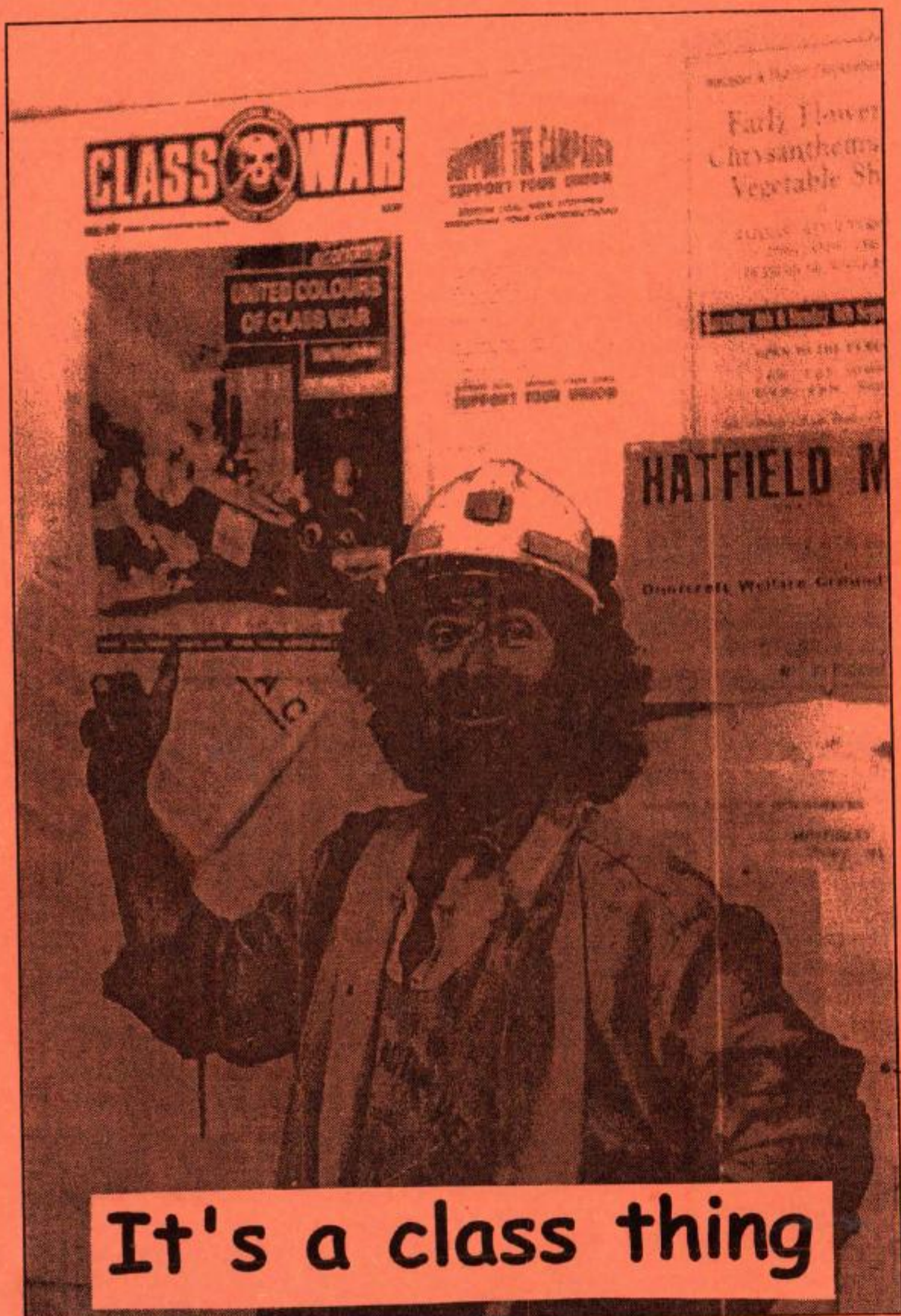
We are currently recording a split with Black Star Dub Collective entitled 'From Rusholme with Dub' that will be released on CD, vinyl and tape on Pumpkin Records (UK), Active (UK), Massprod (FR), Maloka (FR) and Anti Koeper (DE). Due to be released September time. We are also working on a new album that will be released in the near future called 'The Battle of Our Time'.

For more information/mech/gigs check www.autonomads.co.uk or search us on FaceBook

Big up the Bald Cactus!!

Autonomads

ONOMADS • NO MAN'S LA



It's a class thing

R.I.P FOUR LETTER WORD